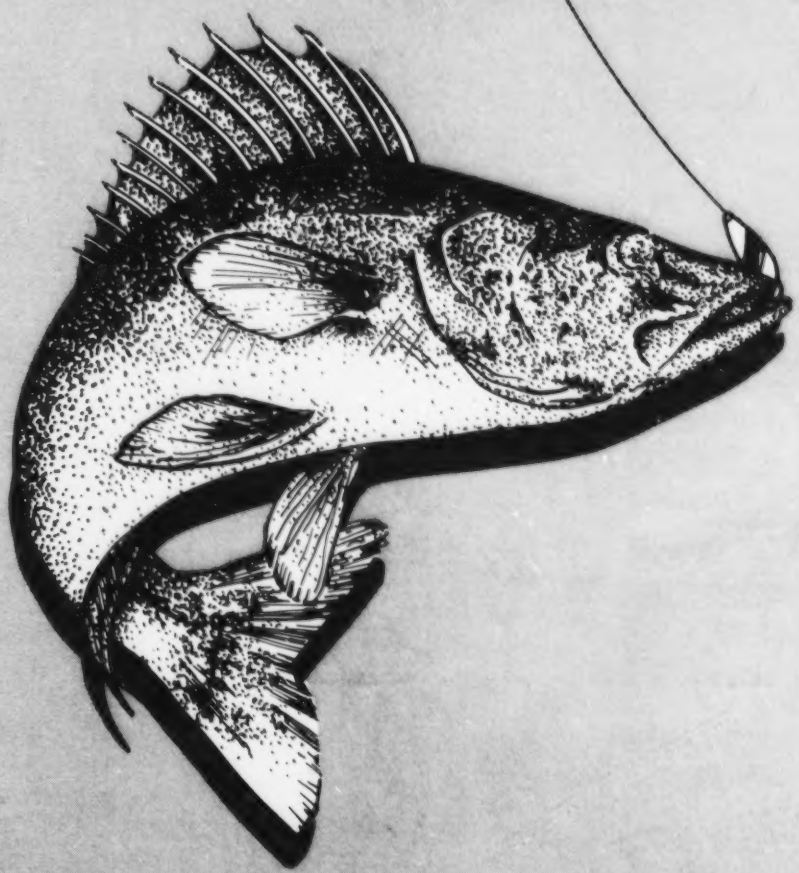
RED LAKE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

1987-2000



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Resources

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Red Lake District Fisheries Management Plan

1987–2000

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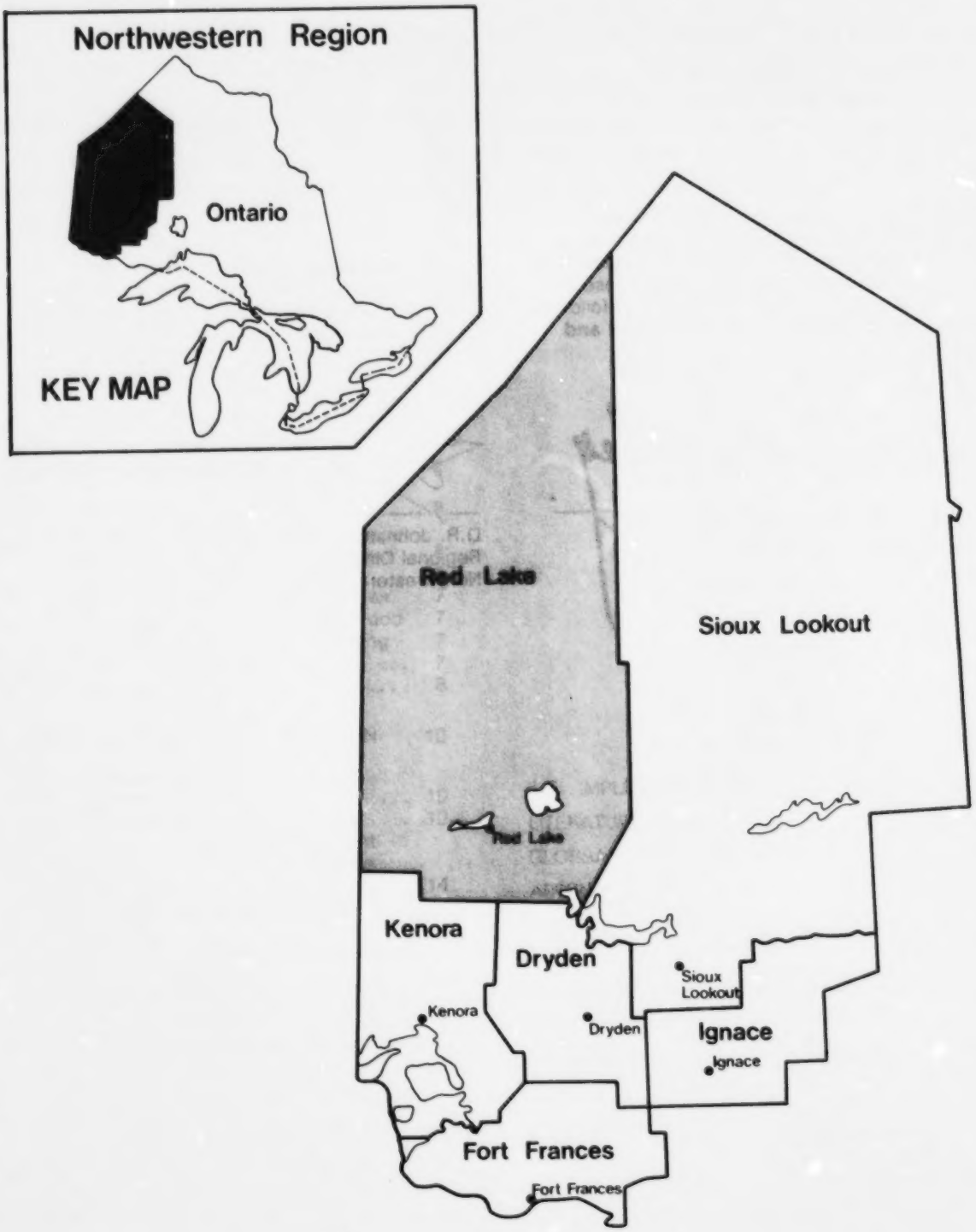
District and Regional Setting



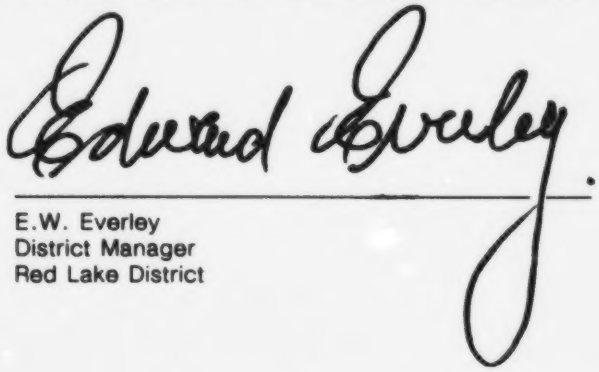
PREFACE

The purpose of this plan is to provide concise **long term direction** (1987–2000) for fisheries management efforts in the Red Lake Administrative District. This plan will **guide development of operational programs** by fisheries managers and will indicate to the general public the **direction of future management**.

This Fisheries Management Plan presents basic fisheries resource information, identifies **problems** related to the **achievement of fisheries targets** and describes **strategies and tactics** to solve these problems. Public input and consultation that followed the presentation of the **Summary Document and "draft" Plan** guided the selection of the strategies and tactics described in this "final" Plan.

The development of strategies and tactics was based on the principles of integrated resource management, accepted fisheries management principles and practices and includes an analysis of public comments.

Management strategies and tactics to be implemented in the first five years of the Plan (1987–1991) are described in target specific implementation schedules.



E.W. Everley
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to present strategies and tactics that will guide fisheries management in the Red Lake District for the next 15 years. In addition, it identifies those fisheries management actions to be carried out within the next five year period.

1.2 PLANNING AREA

The Red Lake District Fisheries Management Plan pertains to all waterbodies within the Red Lake Administrative District of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources (Fig. 1). The responsibility for management of Lac Seul is with the Sioux Lookout District and a copy of the approved Lac Seul Management Plan (1984) is available in the Red Lake District office. (Fig. 1). Management responsibility for lakes that straddle the District and Provincial boundaries is described in Appendix 1.

1.3 PLANNING CONTEXT

District fisheries management planning was undertaken within the resources planning and management system of the Ministry of Natural Resources (Fig. 2). Broad program direction for optimum resource use to achieve established objectives and targets originated in the Northwestern Ontario Strategic Land Use plan (NWSLUP) (OMNR 1982). District resource management plans describe **HOW** specific resources will be managed to achieve program objectives and targets.

Strategies and tactics presented in this **"final"** Plan are a result of public consultation at the **Summary Document and "draft" Plan** stages. The details of **HOW** and **WHERE** these will be implemented are described in a schedule which deals **ONLY** with the first five years of this Plan. At the end of the five year period, this schedule will be reviewed and a new one developed. Annual fisheries work program plans will be developed in accordance with the implementation schedule and will describe actual fisheries management operations to be performed in a particular year.

1.4 PLANNING PROCESS

The development of a fisheries management plan for the Red Lake District represents the product of a six stage systematic planning process as described in Figure 3. The documents produced in stages 1 though 4 provide both background information and rationale for the fisheries management strategies and tactics described in this **"final"** Plan. Documents completed to date are available for public review.

Once the planning process is completed and the final Red Lake District Fisheries Management Plan is released, all of the documents indicated in Figure 3 will be available for public information.

1.5 POLICY AND TECHNICAL DIRECTION

Specific policy direction for this management plan was provided through the **Northwestern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan** (NWSLUP). The operational components of this plan, where required, will conform with the legislative requirements of the Environmental Assessment Act (R.S.O. 1975). This may necessitate changes to specific tactics contained in the plan.

Technical direction was provided by the Ministry of Natural Resources Planning Manual For District Fisheries Management Plans (OMNR 1986). All management strategies and tactics satisfy the principles stated in the **Strategic Plan for Ontario Fisheries** (SPOF, OMNR 1980) and are consistent with **accepted fisheries management principles and practices.**

1.6 PROGRAM INTEGRATION

Integration of the fisheries management plan with other District programs was achieved through a planning team comprised of representatives from timber management, lands management, operations, administration, wildlife management, fisheries management **and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.** The planning team was responsible for the review and evaluation of the **Summary Document** and the **"draft" Management Plan** to ensure that fisheries management recommendations are consistent with the direction of other programs.

1.7 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

At open houses held in November 1986, the Ministry presented a **summary** of background fisheries information and introduced **optional management strategies and tactics** for public discussion and comment. These open houses were the primary forum for public input, but **interest group meetings were also held** to discuss specific problems and issues.

All public comments that resulted from the **Summary Document** open house and user group meetings were reviewed in preparation of the **"draft"** Plan. The rationale for selected strategies and tactics that appeared in the **"draft"** Plan, as well as strategies and tactics that were not selected, formed much of the discussion in this document.

In **September 1987**, open houses were held to allow public review of the **"draft"** Plan. In addition, tabloids were distributed to the public to assist their review of the **"draft"** Plan. Public comments resulting from these open houses were reviewed in preparation of this **"final"** Plan. Public consultation efforts are summarized in Appendix 3.

1.8 TERMINOLOGY

Terminology used in this **"final"** Plan may not be familiar to all readers. For clarification of the meaning of certain terminology, the reader is asked to refer to the glossary of terms in Appendix 3.

FIGURE 2: DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING AND THE MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES PLANNING SYSTEM

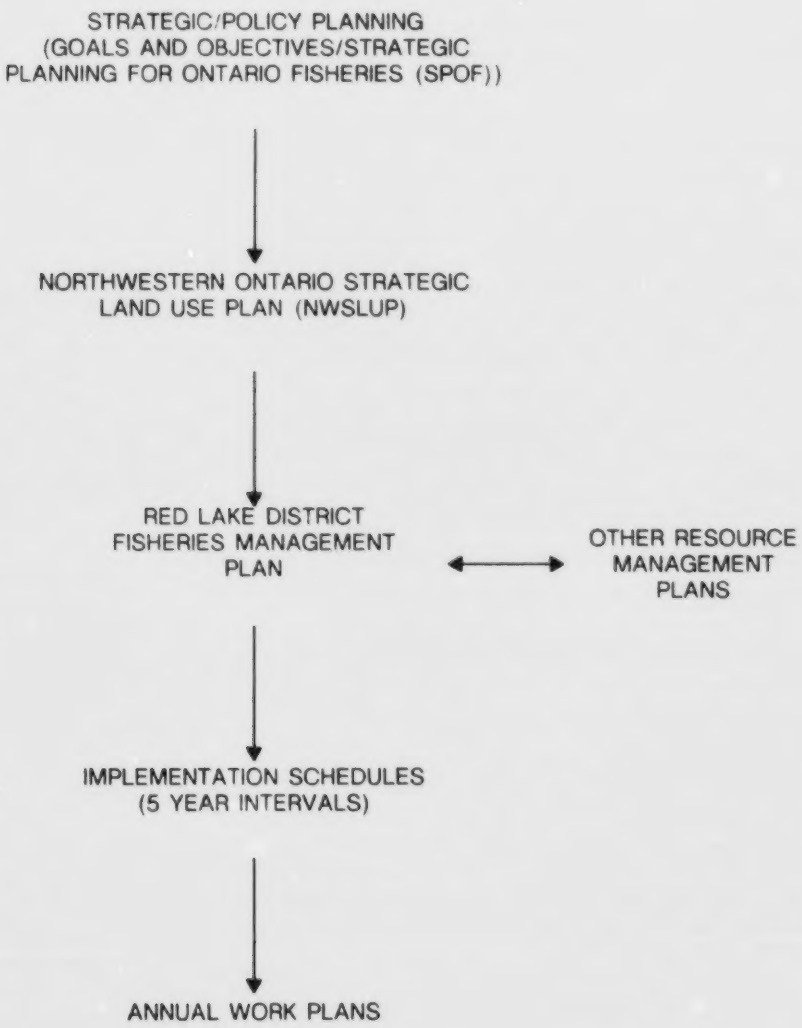


FIGURE 3: SYSTEMATIC PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RED LAKE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN

STAGE	DOCUMENT PRODUCED
1 PREPARATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE	TERMS OF REFERENCE, RED LAKE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (1986a).
2 IDENTIFICATION OF OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS	
3 COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS OF BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF PROBLEMS AND ISSUES	DETAILED BACKGROUND INFORMATION, FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN, RED LAKE DISTRICT (1986b).
4 IDENTIFICATION OF OPTIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND PREPARATION OF A BACKGROUND INFORMATION SUMMARY AND INTRODUCTION TO MANAGEMENT OPTIONS	BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: A SUMMARY, RED LAKE DISTRICT (1986c). SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE BACKGROUND INFORMATION DOCUMENT (1987d).
5 PREPARATION OF A DRAFT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN	DRAFT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN, RED LAKE DISTRICT (1987e). SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE CONTENTS OF THE DRAFT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN
6 PREPARATION OF A FINAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN	FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (FINAL) RED LAKE DISTRICT

2.0 DISTRICT FISHERIES PERSPECTIVE

2.1 FISHERIES RESOURCES

There are 3,037 lakes greater than 25 hectares in size in the Red Lake District with a total surface area of 900,450 hectares. Lake survey information has been collected for 274 water bodies which represents roughly one half of the water surface area. Warmwater lakes predominate and represent 82 percent of the water area. Coldwater lakes comprise the remaining 18 percent (Figure 4). No river or stream surveys have been conducted to date.

The most important fish species to District user groups include walleye, lake trout, northern pike and whitefish. Muskellunge and smallmouth bass also attract angler use, but these fish are available in only a small number of lakes. The commercial fishing industry primarily harvests walleye, northern pike, lake trout and whitefish.

Total District allowable yield of fish from all waterbodies is approximately 3.4 million kilograms annually. Sport fish species which include lake trout, walleye and northern pike represent roughly 60 percent of total allowable yield (Table 1). Some large individual lakes make significant contributions to fish production estimates. For example Sandy Lake, in the northern part of the District, represents approximately 30 percent of the total fish production north of the Berens River. In the south, six individual lakes (Little Vermilion; Longlegged; Nungesser; Pakwash; Red; Trout) account for one half of total production in a 50 km circle around the towns of Red Lake and Ear Falls.

2.2 CURRENT AND PROJECTED RESOURCE USE

Current and projected resource use are examined on a District wide basis. Projections are estimates based on current use patterns and maintenance of current management practices. Use of the Red Lake District fisheries resources can be grouped into the following categories:

i) sport fishing — residents of Ontario
— non-residents of Ontario

ii) commercial fishing — bait

iii) commercial fishing — food

iv) native subsistence fishing

2.2.1 SPORT FISHING

Fish species commonly caught by recreational anglers in the District include lake trout, walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and muskellunge. Smallmouth bass and muskellunge occur in few lakes and represent less than one percent of the total District sport fish harvest. The most preferred warmwater and coldwater species by resident and non-resident anglers are walleye and lake trout.

During 1980, approximately 3,500 residents were involved in fishing activities and generated 53,000 angler-days within the District. The 28,300 non-resident anglers visiting the District in 1980 were mainly from the United States, and generated 189,000 angler-days of fishing effort. Non-residents represent roughly 89 percent of the anglers and 78 percent of the fishing pressure experienced annually in the Red Lake District.

Estimated harvests of lake trout, walleye and northern pike in 1980 totalled 626,200 kg from District waters (Table 1). Resident and non-resident anglers accounted for approximately 135,800 kg (22 percent) and 490,400 kg (78 percent) of the sportfish harvest respectively.

The number of resident anglers and associated harvest is projected to remain stable from 1980 to the year 2000 (Table 2). Non-resident anglers, however, are expected to increase by 25 percent over this same time period based on trends in past effort data (Provincial Angler Surveys 1980). Therefore, non-resident effort is expected to reach 236,250 angler-days and result in a harvest of approximately 614,250 kg of sport fish by the year 2000. Species preferences are not expected to change.

The tourist industry caters almost exclusively to non-resident anglers originating from the United States. More than 80 percent of non-resident (U.S.A.) anglers use the services of tourist establishments. There are 63 main base lodges and 105 outpost camps in the District with more than 80 percent of this commercial development south of the Berens River. Gross revenues generated through commercial tourism activities in 1985 approximated 13.5 million dollars (MTR 1986). Additional economic activity is generated within the local economy as various industries and business provide services (food, gasoline, building supplies etc.) to tourist operations. Fishing is also one of the most important recreational pastimes of local area residents especially during the winter months.

Sport fish harvest distribution suggests high angling pressure in the southern 30 percent of the District. It is this area south of the Berens River that contains the population centres of Red Lake, Balmertown, Cochenour, Madsen and Ear Falls in addition to supporting the greatest concentration of commercial tourist establishments.

2.2.2 COMMERCIAL FISHING — BAIT

South of the 11th baseline, the Red Lake District is subdivided into 116 bait fish blocks each of which is 260 square kilometers (100 square miles) in size. Harvest over the past seven years from 19 bait fishermen has averaged 101,500 dozen minnows. The gross value of baitfish harvested in 1985 approximated $194,000.

The commercial bait fishing industry provides a service to resident anglers and the tourist industry and local seasonal employment. By the year 2000 total fishing effort is projected to increase approximately 25 percent across the Northwest Region. At this rate of change, the demand for bait fish is expected to reach 121,800 dozen in the Red Lake District.

2.2.3 COMMERCIAL FISHING — FOOD

A total of 45 lakes in the District are fished commercially for walleye, northern pike, lake trout and whitefish, but the number of lakes licenced in any one year varies. In 1985, 29 lakes were licenced for commercial harvest. Lakes supporting commercial activities include all waterbodies larger than 5,000 ha in addition to lakes where Indian reserves and settlements are located. Indians from eight bands represented 80 percent of the licensees in the Red Lake District during 1985.

The mean commercial harvest of lake trout, walleye, northern pike and whitefish over the last five years (1981–85) totalled 93,000 kg (Table 1). Sturgeon are removed from lakes along the Severn River, but harvest of this species is irregular. The average annual harvest of all species represents 20 percent of the quotas available from the 45 commercially fished lakes. Commercial quotas are for whitefish only in most southern lakes, but northern fisheries depend on the market value of walleye.

Use of fisheries resources by commercial fishing activities in the year 2000 is not a projection but the **actual assigned quotas** (457,800 kg) (Table 2). However, historic harvests by the commercial fishery have never achieved quota levels.

2.2.4 INDIAN SUBSISTENCE FISHING

There are five reserves and two settlements in the District which are inhabited by 4,012 Indian people. The limited information available on Indian subsistence use in the Northwest Region suggests a harvest of 35 kg of fish per person per year. At this level of use, it is estimated that 140,400 kg of fish are consumed annually by the Indian population in the Red Lake District. Species composition of the subsistence harvest is likely similar to the commercial catch (Table 1).

By the year 2000, an increase in the Indian population is expected and may reach 8,330 individuals based on a rate of increase of five percent annually. Assuming personal consumption in the future remains at current levels, 291,400 kg of fish will be required to meet subsistence needs (Table 2).

Recently, the conflict over use of the fisheries resource by Indian people and all other user groups has intensified. This is due to the negotiations currently taking place between Treaty Organizations, the Provincial Government and the Federal Government.

This plan recognizes many of the basic issues including subsistence requirements and commercial utilization of the fish resources by the Indian communities. Plan amendment will occur if and when an Indian Fishing Agreement requires changes in the management plan.

2.3 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The use of fisheries resources in the Red Lake District is influenced by different land use practices. Four parks in the District encompass 14 percent of the total District area. **Pakwash Provincial Park** (630 ha + 3,680 ha addition) and the **Trout Lake Nature Reserve** (7,300 ha) include a land base only. **Woodland Caribou Provincial Park** (470,000 ha) and **Opasquia Provincial Park** (473,000 ha) both contain an extensive water area. The Woodland Caribou Provincial Park Management Plan addresses fisheries management within the park, but some additional strategies and tactics may be required in this area to remain consistent with the protection of Park values. A management plan for **Opasquia Park** has not yet been initiated. This area will be included in the fisheries management planning process for the District, but will be given special consideration in the future for maintenance of Park objectives.

Lac Seul is not included in the Red Lake District Fisheries Management Plan because it has an **approved** Management Plan in place and is dealt with in the Sioux Lookout District Fisheries Management Plan. However it must be acknowledged that Lac Seul plays an important role in the provision of fishing opportunities to residents of the Ear Falls area. A summary of the contents of the Lac Seul Fisheries Management Plan is provided in Appendix 4.

The southern portion of the Red Lake District has been subdivided into three areas for timber management. The Crown has signed Forest Management Agreements (FMA) with Boise Cascade of Canada **(Pakwash Forest)** and Great Lakes Forest Products **(Trout Lake Forest)**. In addition, the District manages forests in the **Red Lake Crown**

Management Unit. Roads are constructed for timber access, but secondary use by anglers to access new fisheries traditionally leads to high fishing pressure on lakes along road corridors. Some fisheries management strategies and tactics are linked to future road construction.

2.4 OVERVIEW

In the Red Lake District, south of the Berens River, fisheries resources are heavily committed which is in contrast to northern areas where additional fishing opportunities are available. These opportunities are available primarily on small lakes which require a different management approach to ensure fishing quality is maintained.

Some problems and issues facing fisheries resource management were identified in the **Summary Document** with additions provided through public consultation. An attempt to describe some of the more important issues that face managers over the planning period may be summarized under four general categories:

(i) Quality Fishing Opportunities:

In the southern portion of the District, a well developed angling fishery exists with residents and non-residents responsible for 22 and 78 percent of the walleye and northern pike harvest respectively. Harvests above the allowable yield for these species is apparent and fishing quality, most notably fish size and frequency of catching fish, has declined. In order to enhance fishing quality there is a need to change our expectations for the fishery. **There is a need to lower harvests**, which still means fish can be taken for consumption, but much more emphasis must be placed on the recreational aspects of fishing. Now is the time to promote this philosophy because as time progresses fishing quality will become more difficult to restore. Basically anglers need to **limit their take home catch** not catch their take home limit to enhance fishing quality.

In the northern portion of the District where fish grow more slowly and lake productivity is low, it is more important to manage for lower take home harvests by promoting catch-and-release and **limiting the number of trophy sized fish per angler**. That way quality fishing opportunities can be maintained over the long term.

Another aspect of fishing quality that the District intends to manage for is ensuring that a **variety of fishing experiences** are available to anglers. That means in the south **creating additional opportunities for residents and ensuring remote quality fishing experiences are available such as those in Woodland Caribou Provincial Park**.

The District intends to develop **new remote fishing opportunities** in the north. These will be largely tourism based and incorporate the philosophy of **fishing quality maintenance through lower harvests** (high catch-and-release, trophy fisheries). Further it is the District's intention to manage these fisheries in such a manner so as to generate the best economic benefits for local communities.

ii) Conflicts Among Users of the Environment and the Resource:

In the south where fishing quality has declined, anglers have become disappointed with the performance of the fishery and conflicts between user groups have arisen. The District maintains that if fishing quality is enhanced then conflicts will be noticeably reduced because anglers will be more content. In the south, the District intends to intensify its management efforts to **improve fishing quality**. In addition, fisheries management in the southern portion of the District must strive to **balance the diversity of opportunities to ensure that all users have an appropriate level of access to them**.

(iii) Environmental Quality:

The District has made great efforts to ensure that habitat quality is maintained or enhanced. Concern for habitat remains a consideration, particularly in the southern portion of the District, where the majority of resource extraction and development activities occur.

(iv) Fisheries Management Information and Public Awareness:

The District has a good data base on select southern lakes and a reasonable understanding of the problems and issues District-wide that face management. There is a need to improve the data base in regards to **monitoring** the effectiveness of management tactics developed in this plan, particularly new techniques. There is also the need to ensure, through monitoring, the **systematic and orderly development** of new tourism opportunities.

All user groups have an obligation to share in the management of the resources they use if management efforts are to have a reasonable opportunity for success. This is particularly important for those user groups having a vested interest in the fisheries resources such as tourist outfitters and commercial fishermen. There are a number of tourist operators in the District that have been extremely active in developing camp policies related to harvest, promoting catch-and-release and development of trophy fisheries. The District intends to encourage this type of management by providing more information to user groups, and where possible, involving them more in the development and implementation of management actions.

TABLE 1: CURRENT HARVEST BY USER GROUPS, RED LAKE DISTRICT

Species	Sport Fishing Res. (kg/yr)	Sport Fishing Non-Res. (kg/yr)	Commercial Food* (kg/yr)	Subsistence Use (kg/yr)	Total
Lake Trout	6,900	14,700	600	1,400	23,600
Walleye	94,500	244,700	51,000	77,200	467,400
Northern Pike	34,400	231,000	13,800	21,100	300,300
Whitefish			27,600	40,700	68,300
Total	**135,800**	**490,400**	**93,000**	**140,400**	**859,600**
	626,200				

*Average harvest over the 1981–85 period (what is currently caught).

TABLE 2: PROJECTED HARVEST BY USER GROUP TO THE YEAR 2000, RED LAKE DISTRICT

Species	Sport Fishing Res. (kg/yr)	Sport Fishing Non-Res. (kg/yr)	Commercial Food* (kg/yr)	Subsistence Use (kg/yr)	Total
Lake Trout	6,900	18,400	2,300	2,900	30,500
Walleye	94,500	307,100	138,000	160,300	699,900
Northern Pike	34,400	288,700	56,900	43,700	423,700
Whitefish			260,600	84,500	345,100
Total	**135,800**	**614,200**	**457,800**	**291,400**	**1,499,200**
	750,000				

*This is not a projection but total assigned quota values.

3.0 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

3.1 GENERAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

The general objective for fisheries management in the Red Lake District is:

TO PROTECT, REHABILITATE, ENHANCE AND MAINTAIN FISH COMMUNITIES AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT TO PROVIDE AN OPTIMUM CONTRIBUTION OF FISH, FISHING OPPORTUNITIES AND ASSOCIATED BENEFITS (ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, RECREATIONAL) TO SOCIETY.

Inherent to the general fisheries management objective are several key fisheries management principles:

- recognition of and commitment to fisheries management based on the concept of allowable yield (ie. District waterbodies are limited as to the amount of fish that can be produced on a sustained basis);
- acceptance of the concept of allowable yield implies a need to keep harvests of fish within the limits of allowable yield to ensure maintenance of enhancement of fishing quality.

Fishing quality is a general term which encompasses several key aspects of the total fishing experience. Fishing quality is considered high if success is generally good, a diversity of fish species are available to catch, a broad size range of fish including trophy specimens are available and there is a choice of fishing environments (remote wilderness, road/boat accessible).

- recognition that aquatic habitats must be protected and/or rehabilitated if fish communities are to be maintained or enhanced;
- recognition that the fisheries resources belong to all people of Ontario and not any one particular user group;
- in situations where competition for limited fisheries resources exists and allocation decisions are required, such decisions will consider the need to maintain healthy fish communities, fishing quality and the mix of uses which will optimize benefits to society; and
- implied is the need for public awareness and understanding of fish communities, management problems, management techniques and fishery values.

To achieve this general objective requires the use of two general strategies. These strategies are:

i) **TO UTILIZE THE CONCEPT OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ZONES; AND**

ii) **TO DEVELOP SPECIFIC MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES.**

3.2 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ZONES

The entire Northwest Region of the Ministry of Natural Resources has been subdivided into Fisheries Management Zones (FMZ) based on fisheries differences, current use patterns, similar problems and issues and accessibility. In the Red Lake District, there are 11 Fisheries Management Zones to assist in the application of resource management tactics.

Management intents, which are really zone specific objectives for managing the resource and its use, are described below. Zone management intents provide for the management of existing use patterns and orderly development of future opportunities. In some areas of the District the best benefits may be generated through commercial fishing activities. In other areas, tourism based fishing or some mix of other uses, will provide optimum social and economic benefits. To achieve the zone management intent may require application of unique management actions within a zone, some of which may be legislative in nature.

In addition, fisheries management zones establish logical areas for data collection which allow MNR to assess the effectiveness of management actions in achieving stated objectives.

ZONE 32 — SEVERN RIVER

DESCRIPTION

The majority of waterbodies in this zone are classified as warmwater. Fisheries resources in this zone are used by anglers associated with tourism facilities and Indian people. The majority of the District Indian population lives in this zone. Commercial fishing by Indian people occurs on ten waterbodies. The distribution and intensity of Indian subsistence fishing is largely unknown. Tourism developments are limited to one main base lodge and one outpost camp all offering remote fly-in opportunities. Road access does not exist in this zone. The majority of this zone lies in Sioux Lookout District.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY WARMWATER AND COLDWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Warmwater fisheries, in this zone, while not extensively used by anglers, offer high quality fishing opportunities in terms of a diversity of species, high catch rate, broad size range of fish and the occasional trophy fish. The intent is to manage the harvest at or below allowable yield to maintain high quality fishing opportunities.

b/ MANAGE FOR INCREASED REMOTE COMMERCIAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES.

Existing remote tourism opportunities will be maintained. New tourism opportunities in the future will be developed through a systematic process which provides for maintenance of fishing quality. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation will be closely involved in this process to ensure developments which maximize social and economic benefits and are consistent with management intents. Development of new tourism opportunities could be linked to the conversion of commercial sport fish quotas. Because of the requirement for greater information on the fisheries resources in this zone it will take time to identify tourism opportunities.

c/ MANAGE COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

The current harvest of sport fish by the commercial fishery in this zone approximates 20 percent of assigned quotas. There exists a great potential to increase social and economic benefits to local communities through the conversion of commercial fish quotas to tourism based fishing opportunities. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is supportive of efforts to convert quotas and would participate in the development of tourism facilities which are consistent with the intent to maintain high quality fishing opportunities.

ZONE 33 — OPASQUIA PROVINCIAL PARK

DESCRIPTION

Opasquia Provincial Park is a remote wilderness park lying approximately 240 km north of Red Lake. A management plan for the maintenance of park values has not yet been prepared. Lakes within the park boundaries primarily support warmwater fisheries. There are five commercial outpost camps and one main base lodge within the park. An Indian commercial fishery exists on East Lake, but no Indian reserves exist in this zone. Road access does not exist in this zone.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF A WILDERNESS PARK:

- protection of resource values in the park;
- maintenance of recreational opportunities;
- heritage appreciation; and
- remote tourism opportunities.

Until a park management plan has been completed, existing levels of tourism development and commercial fishing will be maintained. A park management plan will provide direction for the type and intensity of development within the park.

b/ MANAGE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY WARMWATER AND COLDWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

The warmwater and coldwater fisheries in the park provide high quality fishing opportunities. Management of fish harvests at or below allowable yield will maintain overall fishing success and provide a broad size range of fish including trophies and a diversity of species.

ZONE 34 — DEER LAKE

DESCRIPTION

The vast majority of lakes in this zone are warmwater, however 11 lake trout lakes have been identified. Fisheries resources in this zone are used by anglers associated with the tourist industry and Indian people. There is one Indian reserve located on Deer Lake. Five lakes are currently commercially fished by Indian people. The level of subsistence harvests by Indian people is unknown. Existing tourism development consists of 18 outposts and three main base lodges. Road access does not exist in this zone.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY WARMWATER AND COLDWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Fishing pressure within the zone has not been excessive. Warmwater and coldwater fisheries continue to provide high quality recreational fishing opportunities. Fishing quality will be maintained by providing for harvests at or below yield.

b/ MANAGE FOR INCREASED REMOTE TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES.

Many small to medium size lakes remain undeveloped but have the potential to provide new remote tourism opportunities. Due to the small size of the lakes in this zone, groups of lakes are needed for new tourism developments. Because of the requirement for greater information on the fisheries resources in this zone, it will take time to identify tourism opportunities. The development of new remote tourism opportunities will be based on a systematic process which provides for maintenance

of fishing quality. This process will involve the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to ensure developments which maximize social and economic benefits and are consistent with management intents. Development of new tourism opportunities could also be linked with the conversion of the commercial sport fish quotas.

c/ MANAGE COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

The current harvest of sport fish by the commercial fishery in this zone approximates 20% of assigned quotas. Potential exists for the creation of new tourism developments if sport fish quotas could be converted to sport fishing opportunities. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is supportive of efforts to convert sport fish quotas. The development of tourism facilities would be consistent with the intent to maintain high quality fishing opportunities.

ZONE 35 — BERENS RIVER

DESCRIPTION

The majority of waterbodies in this zone support warmwater fisheries. Two Indian reserves exist on the Berens River. Approximately five percent of the District resident angler-days are directed at the Berens River zone access provided by the Nungesser Road. The southern portion of this zone supports 19 outpost camps and five main base lodges. Seven Indian commercial fisheries exist in the zone. A portion of this zone lies within the Berens River Timber Management Unit. Timber harvesting in the south eastern portion of the Berens River zone could occur in 1990. Roads in this portion of the zone will be constructed for timber extraction.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY WARMWATER AND COLDWATER RECREATION FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Fisheries in this zone are subjected to heavy fishing pressure. Declines in fishing success and the size of fish caught have been noticed on some lakes. Managing for sport fish and lake trout harvests at or below the allowable yield will maintain sport fishing quality and promote the development of trophy fisheries.

b/ MANAGE FOR NEW AND EXISTING ROAD ACCESSIBLE RESIDENT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Some new logging roads will be developed in the south eastern portion of the zone. The road planning system will be used to take advantage of sport fishing opportunities while recognizing the low productivity of the waters. Sport fishing opportunities in the Berens River area will remain available to residents. Controls may have to be placed on non-resident camping activity to assist with maintenance of quality fishing opportunities.

c/ MANAGE FOR INCREASED REMOTE TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES.

Many small to medium size lakes remain undeveloped in Northern and Western portions of this zone but have the potential to provide new remote tourism opportunities. Due to the size of these lakes the use of groups of lakes for new tourism developments is required. Because of the requirement for greater information on the fisheries resources in this zone it will take time to identify tourism opportunities. The development of new remote tourism opportunities will be based on a systematic process which provides for maintenance of fishing quality. This process will involve the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation to ensure developments which maximize social and economic benefits and are consistent with management intents. Development of new tourism opportunities could also be linked with the conversion of commercial sport fish quotas.

d/ MANAGE COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

The conversion of commercial sport fish quotas to recreational fishing opportunities has the potential to provide for additional tourism based development. The District, in conjunction with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation, will promote the conversion of quotas and ensure that tourism developments are consistent with the best use of the resources.

ZONE 36 — WOODLAND CARIBOU PROVINCIAL PARK

DESCRIPTION

This zone contains both warmwater and coldwater lakes. Some of the most significant lake trout lakes in the District are located in this zone. Tourist facilities consist of three main base lodges and 14 outpost camps. No commercial fisheries exist within the park. Fishing pressure on lakes bordering Manitoba is considered moderate to high. Resident fishing pressure is concentrated on lakes in the south eastern portion of the zone. On lakes, other than border waters, fishing pressure is considered moderate.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE TO MEET THE OBJECTIVES OF A WILDERNESS PARK:

- protection of resource values;
- maintenance of recreational opportunities;
- heritage appreciation; and
- remote tourism opportunities.

Tourism development within the park will be maintained at current levels and will be further

addressed within the park management plan once it is approved. Resident anglers appear to have overlooked this park as a source of high quality remote fishing opportunities. The park, if accessed through Sydney Lake and the Sturgeon River could satisfy a portion of resident angler demands for high quality fishing opportunities.

b/ MANAGE FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY WARMWATER AND COLDWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Although harvesting on some lakes in this zone approaches, or in certain years, exceeds the allowable yield, the district feels that fishing quality has not declined significantly. Fishing pressure is moderate with the majority of pressure resulting from tourism based anglers. On border lakes, anglers associated with Manitoba tourist facilities contribute to moderate-high fishing pressure. Harvests will be maintained at or below allowable yield within the park to ensure quality fishing opportunities are maintained.

ZONE 37 — TROUT LAKE

DESCRIPTION

This zone encompasses warmwater and coldwater lakes. Significant lake trout lakes include Trout Lake, Confederation Lake, Woman Lake and Birch Lake. This zone supports 20 outpost camps and 18 main base lodges. Camping by non-residents is prohibited in portions of this zone. The majority of lakes in the northern portion of this zone are inaccessible except by air. Road access exists in the southern portion of the zone. Fishing pressure is considered moderate with the majority of pressure resulting from tourism based anglers. Cottages exist on two lakes in this zone. Seven commercial fisheries exist in this zone.

MANAGEMENT INTENT

a/ MANAGE FOR MAINTENANCE OR ENHANCEMENT OF HIGH QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Data on fishing success, and size of fish caught are limited but it would appear that fishing quality is still generally good in lakes accessible only by air. For fisheries that are road accessible, there is some suggestion that fishing quality has declined slightly but recreational fishing opportunities are still considered good. Crown land camping by non-residents is prohibited in two areas to reduce fishing pressure on some road accessible lakes. The larger lakes in this zone have the potential to provide trophy fishing opportunities.

b/ MANAGE FOR INCREASED RESIDENT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Roads proposed for development through the timber management planning process have the potential to provide additional road accessible fishing opportunities for residents. This is particularly true for the southern portion of the zone. Roads proposed within areas indicated for remote tourism will have access controlled.

c/ MANAGE FOR INCREASED REMOTE TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES.

This zone will be managed to provide for existing tourism facilities. New tourism developments can occur in the northern portion of this zone where timber harvesting will not occur.

The development of new remote tourism opportunities will require additional fisheries information and will follow a systematic and consistent process to ensure that fishing quality is maintained. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation will be involved in this process to ensure that developments maximize social and economic benefits and are consistent with management intents. The development of new tourism opportunities will come with certain conditions aimed at maintaining fishing quality through harvests at or below allowable yield.

d/ MANAGE COMMERCIAL FISHING FOR INCREASED SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

The use of sport fish by the commercial fisheries in this zone will be reduced as optimum benefits are obtained through recreational use of sport fish. Lake trout harvesting by commercial fisheries will be eliminated due to the sensitivity of this species to commercial harvesting. Commercial fishing will be permitted for species other than sport fish (i.e. whitefish).

ZONE 38 — RED LAKE

DESCRIPTION

This zone contains both warmwater and coldwater lakes. The most significant coldwater lakes in this zone are Red Lake, Longlegged Lake, Medicine Stone Lake and Nungesser Lake. Twenty-four main base lodges and five outpost camps exist within this zone. Four commercial fisheries, for whitefish only, exist on four lakes in this zone. Approximately 90% of resident fishing effort is directed at lakes in this zone. Fishing pressure is high in this zone with non-residents associated with tourist facilities responsible for the majority of fishing pressure. Cottage subdivisions exist on Red Lake, Gullrock Lake, Two Island Lake, Coli Lake and Pakwash Lake.

a/ MANAGE FOR ENHANCED FISHING QUALITY FOR WALLEYE.

High fishing pressure in this zone has produced declines in fishing success and in the size of walleye caught in some lakes. This is most noticeable for walleye in some of the smaller lakes although large lakes such as Red Lake and Gullrock Lake are showing signs of stress.

However, given the fishing pressure in this zone all fisheries are of concern to the District with the general intent being to manage for improved fishing quality.

To improve fishing quality requires alignment of walleye harvests with allowable yield, reduced harvesting of mature fish and possibly creation of new fishing opportunities.

b/ MANAGE FOR MAINTENANCE OF HIGH QUALITY LAKE TROUT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

Lake trout, while present in lakes in this zone, are not extensively sought by anglers. Fishing quality for this species generally remains high. Lake trout will be managed solely as a recreational species with lakes such as Red Lake offering potential trophy fishing opportunities.

c/ MANAGE FOR THE EXISTING LEVEL OF TOURISM DEVELOPMENT.

This zone will be managed to provide for maintenance of the existing level of tourism development. New developments which promote catch-and-release fishing could be considered but the situations where such development could occur are very limited. Road accessible commercial boat caches will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis with a view to enhancing fishing quality in specific areas of this zone (limit number of boat caches, limit number of boats/cache or maintain status quo). Cottaging will continue to be permitted on lakes currently supporting cottage subdivisions. Both of these intents are consistent with recommendations in NWSLUP.

d/ MANAGE FOR EXISTING LEVELS OF COMMERCIAL FISHING.

Since commercial fishing is directed at whitefish, competition with other user groups for the same species does not exist. Commercial fishing could be limited to certain times of the year when recreational fishing is reduced or absent to eliminate any perceived conflicts.

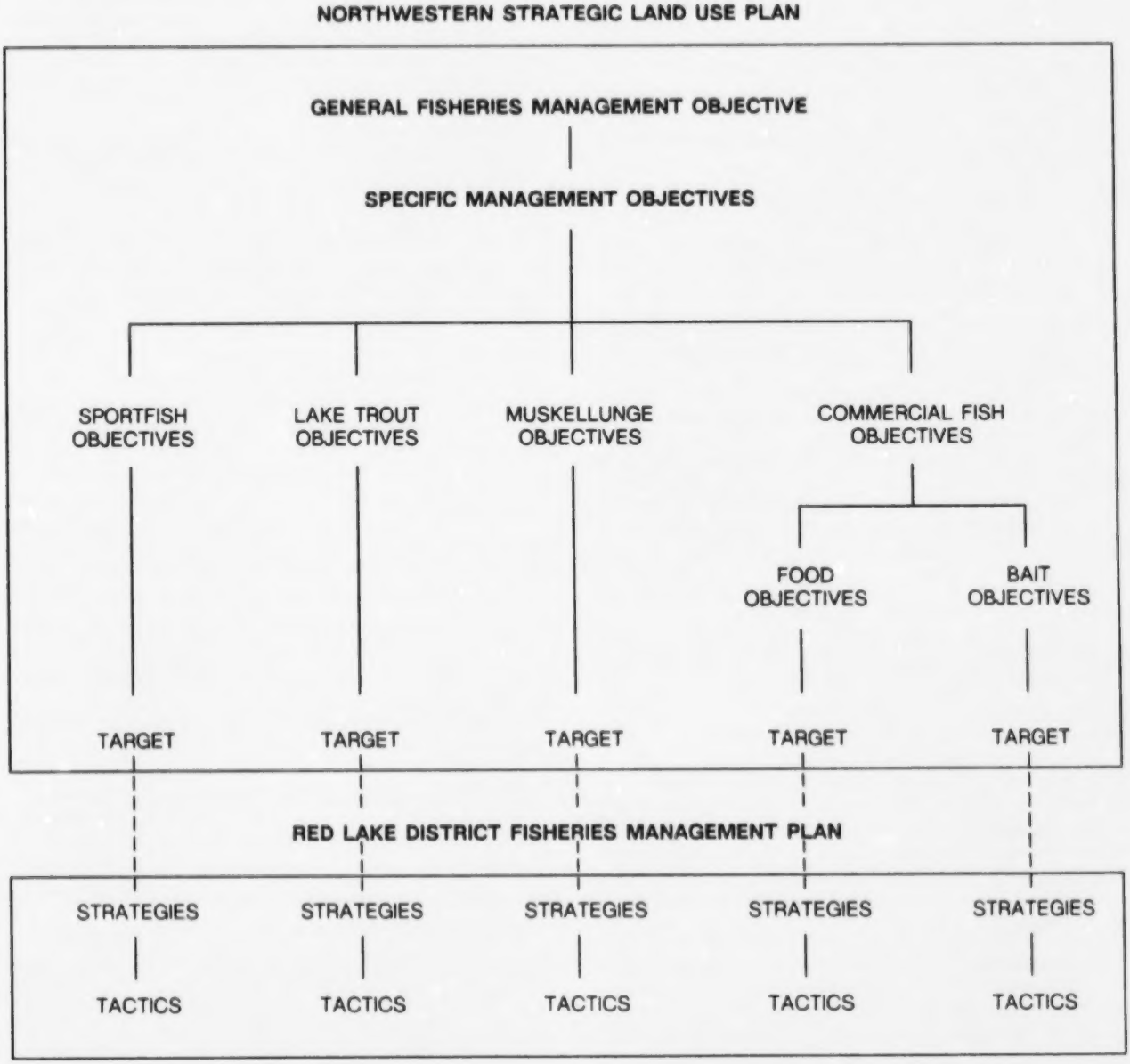
3.3 SPECIFIC FISHERIES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

This section describes the strategies and tactics to achieve **specific management objectives and targets** (Figure 4). Associated with each objective (sport fish; lake trout; muskellunge; commercial fish — food and; commercial fish — bait) is a discussion of problems and issues that must be addressed to permit achievement of the objective by the year 2000. Following the description of strategies and tactics is a discussion of the rationale for their selection and inclusion into this **"final"** Plan. All discussions deal with public comments received from the **Summary Document and "draft" Plan** open houses and user group meetings.

Strategies are what we want to achieve over the long term. Tactics are short term management actions that make up the strategy and describe how management will be achieved. A schedule in Section 4.0 describes where and when tactics will be implemented in the District.

The targets for some objectives may be different than those indicated in NWSLUP and represent refinements based on new information and fisheries management intent. The revised NWSLUP targets in this draft plan are provided in Appendix 5.

FIGURE 4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES; TARGETS; STRATEGIES AND TACTICS



3.3.1 MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES AND TARGETS

3.3.1.1 SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

TO PROVIDE FOR OPTIMUM SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS DERIVED THROUGH SPORT FISH WHILE MAINTAINING SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS.

The term "sport fish" within the context of this section includes walleye, northern pike, smallmouth bass and yellow perch. Muskellunge and lake trout, while also considered sport fish, have been dealt with under separate sections.

This objective contains the following principles:

- MAINTENANCE OF SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS MEANS POPULATIONS SUPPORTED BY NATURAL REPRODUCTION.
- THERE IS AN IMPLIED NEED TO PRESERVE HABITAT QUALITY TO MAINTAIN NATURAL REPRODUCTION.
- THERE IS A NEED TO PROVIDE FOR HARVESTS AT OR BELOW ALLOWABLE YIELD WHICH WILL PROMOTE QUALITY FISHING EXPERIENCES.
- IF QUALITY FISHERIES ARE MAINTAINED OR ENHANCED THEN THE BEST SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS ARE GENERATED.

SPORT FISH MANAGEMENT TARGETS

HARVEST TARGETS:
726,750 kg/yr

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:
289,250 angler-days/yr

Both the use and opportunities targets represent refinements of the NWSLUP target statements. The harvest target is the projected demand for sport fish based on a harvest of 2.6 kg of fish per-angler-day. The target for recreational opportunities is considered the minimum that the District would like to achieve.

This demand can be met in the District as a whole, however the fisheries potential in southern zones of the District is heavily committed. The District is targeting to meet a 25 percent projected increase in non-resident anglers with these additional fishing opportunities planned for the northern management zones. In MNR districts south of Red Lake the fisheries resources are also heavily committed and there may be some displacement of non-resident anglers to the Red Lake District. Accommodation of these anglers could occur in northern management zones. Fishing opportunities in northern zones will be systematically planned and will be based on the maintenance of fishing quality.

Fisheries potential in Zones 12 and 38 is heavily committed. Zones 12 and 38 support development on virtually every waterbody. Fish production in Zone 12 lakes within the Red Lake District is very low and must be managed accordingly. Angler use of timber access roads and the creation of Woodland Caribou Provincial Park may attract more attention to this area. Tourist industry development appears to have reached the maximum allowed by the available resources in Zones 12 and 38. Additional tourist industry development should not be encouraged unless a harvest reduction can be achieved.

3.3.1.2 LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

TO MAXIMIZE HIGH QUALITY RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES WHILE MAINTAINING SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS.

Lake trout have been given special consideration in the Northwestern Ontario Strategic Land Use Plan (NWSLUP) and this Fisheries Management Plan due to their sensitivity to environmental changes and exploitation stress. In order to recognize the sensitive nature of lake trout resources, the District recommends that lake trout be managed solely as a recreational species and not permit any commercial harvest. Management efforts will be directed toward the provision of high quality recreational fishing opportunities.

To ensure the conservation of District lake trout resources, the objective acknowledges the importance of maintaining self-sustaining populations. Acceptance of this concept implies a need to maintain harvest levels at or below allowable yield in addition to the preservation of habitat quality.

LAKE TROUT MANAGEMENT TARGETS

PERMITTED LEVEL OF USE:
30,550 kg/yr

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES:
13,850 angler-days/yr

The harvest target, which is below the allowable yield for the District, represents the projected demand for lake trout to the year 2000 based on current resident angler harvest and an anticipated 25 percent increase in non-resident anglers. The District believes that it is reasonable to accommodate increased numbers of non-resident anglers in the northern fisheries management zones. Additional use should generally not be encouraged in southern zones because harvest is near the allowable level. Fishing quality for lake trout will be difficult to restore if stocks are depleted.

3.3.1.3 MUSKELLUNGE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

TO OPTIMIZE QUALITY RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES WHILE MAINTAINING SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS.

In recognition of the sensitivity of muskellunge to exploitation the District intends to manage muskellunge solely for the provision of recreational fishing opportunities.

To maintain self-sustaining muskellunge populations requires recognition of the need to preserve habitat quality and the need to provide for harvesting below the allowable yield. The high quality fishing opportunities derived through muskellunge are further acknowledged and optimized through management as a trophy species. Given the sensitivity of this species, trophy management appears to provide the greatest economic and social benefits.

In general, the public appears to recognize the sensitivity of this species and the need for more intensive management.

MUSKELLUNGE MANAGEMENT TARGETS

Given the level of knowledge of biology of muskellunge in the District, it is unreasonable to establish specific targets for harvest and recreational opportunities. In general, the District will encourage recreational opportunities related to muskellunge but will keep harvests at levels which will ensure trophy fishing for years to come.

3.3.1.4 COMMERCIAL FISHING (FOOD) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

TO MAINTAIN A VIABLE INDUSTRY BY ENCOURAGING THE HARVEST OF COMMERCIAL FISH UNDER QUOTA MANAGEMENT WHERE IT IS BIOLOGICALLY, ECONOMICALLY AND SOCIALLY ACCEPTABLE.

Commercial fishing must be recognized as a valid use of the fisheries resources in the Red Lake District. In northern management zones Indian commercial fishing activity, while not providing optimum economic benefits to communities, is a traditional way of life. In southern management zones, particularly Zone 37 and 38, commercial fishing of sport fish species may not represent the best use of the resource from an economic and social view point.

Where commercial fishing occurs, harvests will continue to be managed through the species quota system currently in place.

COMMERCIAL FISH (FOOD) MANAGEMENT TARGETS

ZONES 32, 33, 34

HARVEST TARGET:

WALLEYE	37,805 kg/yr
NORTHERN PIKE	10,789 kg/yr
LAKE TROUT	0 kg/yr
WHITEFISH	20,758 kg/yr

ZONES 35, 36, 37, 38

HARVEST TARGET:

WALLEYE	0 kg/yr
NORTHERN PIKE	0 kg/yr
LAKE TROUT	0 kg/yr
WHITEFISH	21,826 kg/yr (existing quotas)

In northern management zones the harvest targets represent the current level of use. Indian communities north of the Berens River would receive greater benefits from the use of the fisheries resources if they could diversify their economic base in the direction of tourism based fisheries. Since large amounts of sport fish, currently under commercial quotas, are not fully utilized there is the potential to establish tourism based fishing opportunities through the conversion of sport fish quotas. The District intends to promote such conversion and is supported in these efforts by the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

Harvest targets for commercial fish in southern management zones reflect the management of walleye, northern pike and lake trout as recreational species.

3.3.1.5 COMMERCIAL FISH (BAIT) MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

TO PROVIDE FOR THE HARVEST OF BAITFISH FOR USE BY THE SPORT FISHERY RECOGNIZING THE OVERALL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFITS GENERATED THROUGH MAINTENANCE OF A VIABLE BAITFISH INDUSTRY

Satisfying demand for baitfish by the District sport fishery is a primary consideration of baitfish management efforts. The District feels that demand can be satisfied through baitfish harvesting from the area south of the 11th baseline. In general, public comments indicate that the supply of baitfish from areas currently under licence is adequate to meet demands. The District will remain consistent with existing policy and not dispose of areas for baitfishing north of the 11th baseline.

The baitfish management objective recognizes the important and successful services provided to the angling fraternity in addition to the important social

and economic benefits to local communities derived through the baitfish industry. Public comments imply a desire to see the maintenance of a viable baitfish industry and associated benefits.

COMMERCIAL FISH (BAIT) MANAGEMENT TARGETS

HARVEST TARGET: 121,000 dozen

The baitfish target indicated above represents a refinement of the NWSLUP target since it reflects what the District feels can be produced to satisfy future angler demands.

3.4 MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND TACTICS

3.4.1 QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES

3.4.1.1 SPORTFISH

Strategies and tactics pertaining to sport fish management are indicated in Figure 5.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 1

THERE IS A NEED TO MAINTAIN FISHING QUALITY FOR NORTHERN PIKE AND WALLEYE.

Fishing quality in northern management zones is generally good. To maintain opportunities to catch a broad size range of fish (walleye and pike) it is incumbent on all anglers to manage their harvest. Returning fish to the water will help to sustain healthy fish populations. This is particularly true for the larger breeding individuals. Anglers, in many Canadian and U.S. jurisdictions, have made a concerted effort to release fish and take less fish home. The tourist industry has a particularly important role in communicating this ethic to their clients.

In southern management zones fishing quality needs to be improved. Tactics used to maintain fishing quality (catch-and-release fishing, trophy fisheries) can be used to improve fishing quality.

STRATEGY

TO MAINTAIN FISHING QUALITY THROUGH A REDUCTION OF THE HARVEST OF MATURE WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE.

TACTICS

- POSSESSION OF ONLY 1 WALLEYE GREATER THAN 50 CM (19.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN A POSSESSION LIMIT OF 6 FISH. (ALL ZONES)
- POSSESSION OF ONLY 1 NORTHERN PIKE GREATER THAN 70 CM (27.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN A POSSESSION LIMIT OF 6 FISH. (ALL ZONES)
- NO LIVE BAIT ABOVE THE 11TH BASELINE. (ZONES 32, 33, 34, 35)
- MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES OR GROUPS OF LAKES AS LIMITED ENTRY FISHERIES. (ZONE 37)

These possession limit tactics support efforts to reduce the harvest of breeding fish while protecting quality fishing opportunities. However, more needs to be done to support the ethic of limiting the catch, not catching the limit. A greater effort is required by all users but especially the tourist industry which has an investment interest and whose clients make up 80 percent of the anglers in the District. The industry may feel it necessary to take on other programs in the form of camp policies which promote catch-and-release. The District will provide technical expertise to camp owners who want to set up programs which encourage catch-and-release. In addition, the industry in general may want to restrict the export of fish at some point in the future.

Gear restrictions (no live bait; barbless hooks, etc.) were also suggested by the public as a means of reducing harvest. The baitfish industry remains a relatively stable economic activity and it is somewhat doubtful if the benefits gained through application of bait restrictions outweigh the social and economic cost to local communities. The use of live bait, however, is currently restricted north of the 11th baseline. This policy will be maintained to assist with the preservation of fishing quality (high catch per unit effort) in northern zones. There is evidence which indicates that fish mortality due to deeply embedded hooks is most likely to occur when live bait is used. In the northern management zones where there would be a high catch-and-release rate, hooking mortality of released fish could be substantially reduced if live bait was not used in conjunction with artificial lures. In addition this policy would help to prevent the introduction of exotic fish species which could adversely affect native fish populations.

For certain fisheries in the southern portion of Zone 37 there is some suggestion that fishing quality has declined slightly. The establishment of limited entry fisheries in conjunction with other tactics, would ensure harvests at or below allowable yield thereby maintaining or improving fishing quality. Implementation of this tactic would not be widespread but will be attempted in selected areas.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 2

CURRENT HARVEST OF WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE IN ZONE 38 EXCEEDS THE ALLOWABLE YIELD WHICH HAS RESULTED IN A REDUCTION IN FISHING SUCCESS AND SIZE OF FISH CAUGHT.

In Zone 38 studies on heavily used lakes indicate that angler harvest is above the biologically allowable level. It is the District's intention to improve the quality of walleye and northern pike fishing opportunities in this zone. A concerted effort by the District is required along with the support of anglers and the tourist industry.

STRATEGY

TO IMPROVE FISHING QUALITY FOR WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE IN ZONE 38.

TACTICS

- POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONLY ONE WALLEYE GREATER THAN 50 CM (19.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.
- POSSESSION LIMIT OF ONLY ONE NORTHERN PIKE GREATER THAN 70 CM (27.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN A POSSESSION LIMIT OF SIX FISH.
- MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES FOR TROPHY WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.
- ESTABLISH A SLOT-SIZE FOR WALLEYE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES.
- ESTABLISH SANCTUARIES FOR WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE IN KEY SPAWNING AREAS (APRIL 15 — MAY 31).
- REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR NEW AND EXPANDED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.
- LIMIT NUMBER OF BOAT CACHES, LIMIT NUMBER OF BOATS/CACHE OR MAINTAIN STATUS QUO.
- EXPAND CROWN LAND CAMPING RESTRICTIONS TO INCLUDE ALL OF ZONE 38.
- EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN AND INCREASED OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES.

Walleye and northern pike often depend on the reproduction from a few key spawning areas. On large heavily used fisheries it is important to provide additional protection to breeding fish. The possession limits on walleye and northern pike over a specified length described in the previous section will provide an additional measure of protection for breeding fish and should improve fishing quality over the long term.

The District will manage Longlegged Lake for trophy walleye fishing opportunities and Bruce and Pakwash Lakes for trophy northern pike fishing opportunities. Management of these lakes could involve the use of tactics such as gear limitations or catch-and-release. Tactics to maintain trophy fisheries will be presented for public review and comment before implementation is considered.

The District will implement a slot-size for walleye on specific lakes (Red Lake, Keg Lake, Gullrock Lake, Two Island Lake, Pakwash Lake, Longlegged Lake and Nungesser Lake) in addition to a possession limit on large walleye and northern pike. The fishery needs to be stabilized through further protection of brood stock. Under a slot-size, fish which fall within a certain size range, generally the mature breeders, would be returned to the water. It is felt that this tactic will protect fishing opportunities and the significant long-term investment which the tourist industry has in this area.

Prior to implementation the appropriate slot-size must be ascertained so pre-assessment of the fisheries will be necessary. In addition, further adjustment of the slot-size may be required based on post-implementation studies. The District emphasizes that all users can help to enhance fishing quality by supporting this approach and taking it further through the development of camp policies and trophy fisheries.

In addition to reducing harvest of brood stock while maintaining angling opportunities, slot-size tactics have various educational benefits in that they promote an understanding of basic fisheries biology and management and development of a greater conservation ethic.

As an alternative to season alterations to protect mature fish moving from their spawning areas, the public has suggested the establishment of sanctuaries on specific spawning sites, primarily in Zone 38. The District feels that this approach is more acceptable than widespread season changes as it does not reduce fishing opportunities significantly or impact on tourist businesses through a reduction in the operating season. Fish sanctuaries represent areas where an extended closure to fishing exists for the protection of mature fish during the spawning period. In the Red Lake District, walleye and northern pike, on average, may still be on the spawning shoals when the fishing season opens. The mature brood stock of both species may be concentrated in small areas which increases their vulnerability to harvest by anglers, who also concentrate their effort in these same areas. Delaying the opening of the fishing season where mature fish congregate may provide time for them to

disperse. Fishing opportunities will be maintained by such a tactic, but selective harvest of brood stock will be reduced. This tactic is consistent with the objective of fisheries resource conservation as sufficient brood stock will be preserved to maintain self-sustaining populations. All user groups appear to support this tactic.

Use of the fisheries resources in Zone 38 is currently at capacity and it is the District's intent to improve fishing quality in this zone. Generally an increase in tourism capacity, which results in additional angler harvests, will not be supported. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is in complete agreement with this approach.

Crown Land camping restrictions prohibit non-residents of Canada from camping on Crown Land. Such restrictions are currently being used to assist the protection of sensitive fisheries from over-harvesting. As part of efforts to hold the line on harvest and decrease it over the long-term, non-resident camping in Zone 38 will be prohibited.

Unanimous support for increased enforcement efforts across the District was provided by all user groups. Expanded law enforcement activities through input to the development of a District enforcement plan and increased officer presence on heavily used lakes, is a basic requirement of this Fisheries Management Plan.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 3

THERE IS A NEED TO DEVELOP NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY.

In the southern portion of the District, particularly in Zones 35, 36, 37 and 38, the District intends to create additional fishing opportunities for resident anglers. In Zones 32, 33, 34 and 35, beyond the area of road access, further development of tourism based fisheries will occur. The economic benefits to the community of well planned and systematically developed tourism based fisheries are well documented.

STRATEGY

INCREASE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENT ANGLERS.

TACTICS

- INCREASE WALLEYE AND FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ADULT TRANSFERS INTO LAKES WHICH PRESENTLY DO NOT SUPPORT WALLEYE (ZONE 37, 38).
- UTILIZE ROADS DEVELOPED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS TO ASSIST THE PROVISION OF NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES.

North of Red Lake there are five lakes which the District feels will support walleye populations. The adult walleye transfer technique has been proven successful in barren lakes or lakes with compatible fish species, such as northern pike and yellow perch. Stocking on top of existing walleye populations to support harvests above allowable level has not been successful. Pre-assessment of these lakes will be necessary to determine their suitability for the proposed introductions. Additionally, it may be necessary to protect the transplanted adults for a period of five years or until self-sustaining populations are established. Therefore new fishing opportunities may not be immediately available.

The District will also consider stocking smallmouth bass in lakes where they are not likely to impact upon naturally occurring fish populations. Smallmouth bass are known to compete with walleye and may have detrimental effects on other fish populations. In any case, widespread stocking of smallmouth bass will not be promoted. Further investigation is required to specifically identify the lakes where smallmouth bass could be stocked.

New roads in Zones 35, 37 and 38, which are currently in the planning stages but have not yet been built, will be reviewed to determine the extent to which they can accommodate additional resident fishing opportunities. The tourism industry in general is encouraged to be part of the timber planning process which is the primary vehicle for planning roads. Tactics for protecting tourism values are to be negotiated by the operators and timber companies. The District's role is to encourage participation of other users in the timber management planning process and also to serve as a third party arbitrator.

STRATEGY

DEVELOP NEW TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONES.

TACTICS

- COLLECT FISHERIES DATA ON ALLOWABLE HARVEST (YIELD) AND EXISTING LEVEL OF USE (ZONE 32, 34, 35).
- WORK WITH MTR TO DEVELOP A MECHANISM FOR DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE TOURISM BASED FISHERIES (ALL ZONES).
- WORK WITH COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN TO CONVERT THEIR FISHERIES TO TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES (SEE SECTION 3.5.1.4).

- REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION OF TOURIST FACILITIES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS (ZONE 32, 34, 37, 35, 36, 38).

A "New" policy must evolve for developing tourism based fisheries of the future. Guidelines must be developed with the tourist industry for ensuring tourism developments are of a size which does not promote fish harvests above allowable limits and promotes long term investment and the best return to local economies, while sustaining the quality of the fishery. Some progress in this area has been made but more work is needed. The Ministry of Tourism and Recreation is fully in support of this approach.

The District will work more closely with operators who propose expansion of their facilities to ensure that fishing quality is maintained. In cases where walleye and northern pike are being harvested at the level of allowable yield, special lake strategies may need to be negotiated to reduce harvests and accommodate the proposed expansion of capacity. Such things as more catch-and-release fishing, lower limits and size restrictions can be successfully negotiated and tied into the control of angler activity on Crown land.

3.4.1.2 LAKE TROUT

Strategies and tactics pertaining to lake trout management are indicated in Figure 6.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 4

LAKE TROUT ARE SLOW GROWING, LATE MATURING AND THEREFORE, MORE SENSITIVE TO HARVESTING.

STRATEGY

TO ENSURE THE MAINTENANCE OF FISHING QUALITY FOR LAKE TROUT.

TACTICS

- REQUIRE ALL LAKE TROUT ANGLERS WHO ARE NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA (EXCEPT PROPERTY OWNERS) TO BE ACCOMMODATED AT TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS. (ALL ZONES)
- LOWER THE POSSESSION LIMIT TO TWO LAKE TROUT. (ALL ZONES)
- REVIEW THE CONTROL OR HARVEST AND USE OF SMELT.
- MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES FOR TROPHY LAKE TROUT FISHING OPPORTUNITIES. (ZONES 36, 37, 38)
- REVIEW ALL PROPOSALS FOR EXPANSION OF TOURISM CAPACITY ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. (ALL ZONES, PARTICULARLY ZONE 38)
- WORK WITH TOURIST OPERATIONS ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS TO ENHANCE TROPHY FISHING. (ALL ZONES)
- EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT INTO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN AND INCREASE OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES. (ALL ZONES)
- DEVELOP LAKE TROUT TAG SYSTEM (ANNUAL CREEL LIMIT) FOR ANGLERS WHO ARE NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA. (ALL ZONES)

One of the most positive steps that could be taken for the management of lake trout is to channel all non-residents who want to fish for lake trout through the tourist industry. By doing this, lake trout harvests could be controlled, fishing quality would be maintained, and the greatest possible economic value will have been obtained for use of this sensitive species.

The only exception will be non-residents of Canada who are in the company of an Ontario resident who can legally fish lake trout (i.e. licenced adult angler, senior citizen or under 18 years etc.) They will be permitted to fish but their catch will be applied against the resident's lake trout limit. Some residents expressed concern over being unable to invite non-resident friends up to go lake trout fishing. As a result of this input, the original recommendation was modified.

Initially the tactic to reduce the lake trout possession limit to two (2) was proposed for Zone 36 in recognition of the trophy qualities of this species. However public input recommended broader application of this tactic in recognition of the quality lake trout fishing opportunities existent in other zones.

Recently it has been documented that smelt now exist in the Red Lake/Gullrock system. As this area is well beyond the previously documented distribution of smelt, introduction by humans was the probable cause. Scientific study has shown that smelt can impact adversely on whitefish and herring populations. This in turn can affect other fish populations, particularly lake trout, as whitefish and herring are major prey for this species. We will review the control of harvest and use of smelt because of our great concerns.

The District will manage Trout Lake, Red Lake, Longlegged Lake and Confederation Lake for trophy

lake trout fishing opportunities. Management on these lakes could involve the use of tactics such as possession of only one trout greater than 65 cm (25.5 in.) in a daily possession limit of two fish. If trophy management is successful on these lakes other lakes will be considered for similar management. Tactics to maintain trophy fisheries will be presented for public review and comment before implementation is considered.

By reviewing proposals for expansion by the tourist industry the District wants to ensure that lake trout harvests are maintained below allowable yield to ensure continued high quality fishing opportunities. New tourist opportunities will be developed through the same process indicated in the sport fish section. In the case where new opportunities are recommended the District will work with the tourist industry to develop more catch-and-release fishing and trophy opportunities. Such tactics as barbless hooks and size limits are possible but only if the industry is prepared to support their development and implementation. The District encourages operators with an interest in this type of management to participate in the management process for lake trout.

Once again, unanimous support for an increase in enforcement efforts was provided by all user groups. This tactic is highlighted under lake trout to demonstrate the need for an enhanced enforcement presence on heavily used waterbodies given the proposed tactics to maintain harvest below allowable yield.

The District is considering a lake trout tag system for non-resident anglers some time in the future. This system would ensure that the District is able to manage lake trout harvests at a level which is consistent with the maintenance of fishing quality. The concept of a tag system is considered the most effective harvest control mechanism to establish an upper level on lake trout harvest. In addition, it would require fewer supporting regulations, such as season closures, to achieve a level of harvest consistent with allowable yield. The idea involves a fixed number of lake trout (tags) that would be associated with a non-resident licence. Once an angler harvests the appropriate number of fish permitted by the licence, the licence becomes invalid for that particular year.

Tag numbers have not been offered as a tactic in this plan because some important ground work must be completed first. It is not yet known, given the current state of the District data base, what tag numbers would actually be required to maintain the harvest below the level of allowable yield. The concept appears appealing because it can be applied to individual lakes or to entire Fisheries Management Zones once sufficient data is available.

3.4.1.3 MUSKELLUNGE

Strategies and tactics pertaining to muskellunge management are indicated in Figure 6.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 5

MUSKELLUNGE ARE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO EXPLOITATION DUE TO THEIR SLOW GROWTH AND BREEDING ECOLOGY.

Muskellunge are not abundant in this District but they are found in selected lakes (Flat, Russet, Paul-Orr, Pakwash, Confusion and Red). Musky anglers are generally trophy specialists. Provincial regulations have acknowledged this and ensure that the species is treated as a trophy. The management of muskellunge as a trophy species appears to be the most effective approach to ensure conservation of this unique species and optimization of economic and social benefits. In terms of Red Lake District fisheries, muskellunge exhibit extremely slow growth characteristics in cold northern lakes and anglers may not be able to take as many trophies as they can in southern lakes.

This is a highly valued species and non-resident anglers are willing to travel great distances to catch only a few big fish. Part of their mode of operation is to practice catch-and-release fishing. This ensures that self-sustaining populations are maintained and optimizes economic and social benefits to local communities.

STRATEGY

MANAGE MUSKELLUNGE AS A TROPHY SPECIES.

TACTICS

- ENSURE NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA, EXCLUDING PROPERTY OWNERS, FISHING FOR MUSKELLUNGE ARE ACCOMMODATED AT A TOURIST ESTABLISHMENT.
- IMPLEMENT A TAG SYSTEM WHICH LIMITS ANGLERS TO TWO FISH PER YEAR.

A very positive step towards ensuring management of muskellunge as a trophy species is to channel all non-resident anglers, who want to fish muskellunge, through the tourist industry. This tactic would provide significant economic benefits as considerable time and money is spent by anglers dedicated to the pursuit of muskellunge.

To promote harvesting at a level consistent with the intent to manage muskellunge as a trophy species, the District will use the concept of a tag system for both resident and non-resident anglers. This tactic appears particularly suited to this purpose as it establishes an upper level on the harvest. In addition, a tag system requires fewer supporting regulations such as season restrictions, to achieve harvests below allowable yield. Implementation of a tag system is being considered for the second five year implementation period because there is reasonably good control on muskellunge harvests now with the size and catch limits that are currently in place.

3.4.1.4 COMMERCIAL FISHING (FOOD)

Strategies and tactics related to commercial fishing are indicated in Figure 7.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 6

UNDER-UTILIZATION OF COMMERCIAL FISH QUOTAS IS OCCURRING IN NORTHERN PORTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The District is concerned with under-utilization of quotas from the perspective that a quota represents a legal commitment of fisheries. Under-utilization means that the best economic and social benefits are not achieved from a portion of this commitment. Converting sport fish quotas to tourism based fisheries would provide for greater economic return to northern communities.

STRATEGY

CONVERT SPORT FISH QUOTAS TO TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES WHERE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY ACCEPTABLE.

TACTICS

- REDUCE SPORT FISH (WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE, LAKE TROUT) QUOTAS TO THE LEVEL OF CURRENT USE AND CONVERT THE REMAINING PORTION TO RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES. (ZONES 32, 34, 35)

In order to attract clientele, tourist facilities must offer clients fast action fishing which is preserved through a catch and release philosophy. Tourist facilities must be operated on a limited kill basis due to the low productivity of northern waters.

3.4.2 CONFLICTS OCCUR AMONG USERS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE FISHERIES RESOURCE.

The majority of District fishing activity occurs in Zone 38. There is a large tourism infrastructure in this zone and it happens to be where most resident anglers spend their time fishing. Fishing quality needs to be improved and additional opportunities created to alleviate conflicts.

In previous sections the District indicated a commitment to improve fishing quality through a slot size regulation and curtailment of any additional increase in fishing pressure. The Crown Land Recreation Program was implemented in other parts of the District to ensure that resident and tourist fishing opportunities were protected. The District intends to expand the Crown Land Camping program in Zone 38, to further ensure that newly created opportunities established through adult transfers are developed for residents only.

3.4.2.1 COMMERCIAL FISHING (FOOD)

PROBLEM/ISSUE 1

CONCERN HAS BEEN EXPRESSED THAT COMMERCIAL HARVESTING OF SPORT FISH COULD AFFECT FISHING QUALITY.

Conflicts between the commercial and recreational fisheries appear to exist as a result of the perception that commercial fishing contributes to overharvesting of sport fish or is detrimental to sport fish populations in general.

In northern management zones only 20 percent of commercial quotas are harvested annually, therefore concern for the detrimental impacts of commercial harvesting appear unfounded. However, the concerns may be real on Roderick and Kirkness Lakes where competition for fisheries resources could result in declines in fishing quality.

The public in general appears to be aware of the large disparity in social and economic benefits that exist between the commercial harvest of walleye, northern pike and lake trout in comparison to harvesting by recreational fisheries. Management strategies and tactics must be directed towards balancing harvest with allowable yields for the maintenance or enhancement of fishing quality.

This philosophy is particularly important in southern management zones where competition for fisheries resources is high. Decisions concerning the level of sport fish harvest permitted by a particular user group should reflect biological concerns and the extent of economic and social benefits which occur through use of the fisheries resources.

STRATEGY

PROVIDE FOR THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF SPORT FISH USE BY THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY TO REDUCE CONFLICTS AND MAINTAIN OR IMPROVE FISHING QUALITY.

TACTICS

- REDUCE WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE QUOTAS AND ELIMINATE LAKE TROUT QUOTAS THROUGH GOVERNMENTAL PURCHASE OR BY TRADING FOR QUOTAS ON WHITEFISH. (ZONES 37, 38)

- IMPLEMENT SEASONAL RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES. (ALL ZONES)

- INTENSIFY ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL FISHING. (ALL ZONES)

In southern management zones, where there are sport fish harvesting concerns, the intent of management efforts is to align sport fish harvests with allowable yields and optimize economic return by providing for sport fish use by the recreational fishery. In these situations the District no longer feels that the commercial harvest of sport fish represents the best use of these resources.

To provide for the redirection of walleye, northern pike and lake trout to the recreational fishery, the District proposes to reduce commercial quotas through governmental purchase or by trading for quotas on lake whitefish. Walleye and northern pike quota purchases would occur on a willing buyer/willing seller basis and would not be reallocated to other commercial fisheries. Lake trout quotas will be eliminated by outright governmental purchase. The approach between species differs because walleye and northern pike are a little more resilient to exploitation than are lake trout. These tactics are only proposed for commercial fisheries in southern zones.

Conflicts between the commercial and recreational fisheries can be further reduced by working with commercial fishermen to ensure they do not fish at the same time as anglers. As part of conditions on the licence, commercial fishing could be limited to a time of year when recreational fishing is reduced or absent. Seasonal limitations can have positive benefits to the commercial fishing industry through increased prices paid for fish, particularly those harvested during the fall and winter. This particular tactic is applicable to commercial fisheries in southern management zones only.

3.4.2.2 COMMERCIAL FISHING (BAIT)

PROBLEM/ISSUE 2

COMPETITION EXISTS BETWEEN COMMERCIAL BAIT FISHERMEN AND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY OVER BAITFISH HARVESTING FROM SPECIFIC WATERBODIES.

Concern by specific tourist operators that the baitfish industry cannot supply their needs results in their application for lake specific licenses. In contrast, the baitfish industry appears concerned that individual profit will be reduced through licencing of lakes within baitfish blocks to specific tourist establishments.

STRATEGY

MINIMIZE THE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TOURIST AND BAITFISH INDUSTRIES.

TACTICS

- PROVIDE A FORUM FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE TWO INDUSTRIES FOR RESOLUTION OF THEIR SUPPLY/DEMAND CONCERNS.

- MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POLICY OF LIMITING THE ISSUANCE OF LAKE SPECIFIC LICENSES IN SITUATIONS WHERE NON-SUPPLY IS A CONFIRMED PROBLEM.

- MAINTAIN THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF BAITFISH LICENCING BY BLOCK.

While the District recognizes the desire of specific tourist establishments to acquire lake specific licenses it is felt that improvements in baitfish supply could be achieved through greater communication between the tourism and baitfish industries. The District will remain consistent with the existing policy on area specific licencing which requires tourist operators to establish actual need due to supply problems.

To maintain a stable and healthy baitfish industry the District will continue to use the block licencing system. The baitfish industry is stable and the existing system is working reasonably well. Industry comments have not indicated specific problems with the current system. Since demand for baitfish is being satisfied there is no need to increase the number of baitfish blocks or the number of licenses per block.

Some concern has been expressed by resident anglers that harvest of baitfish above the 11th baseline is occurring. If the block licencing system is to be maintained, then it is incumbent upon the District to enforce harvesting of bait within the areas licenced.

3.4.3 ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

3.4.3.1 SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT

PROBLEM/ISSUE 1

FISHERIES HABITAT REQUIRES PROTECTION FROM DEGRADATION AND LOSS TO ENSURE LONG TERM MAINTENANCE OF SPORT FISH AND LAKE TROUT PRODUCTION.

This District recognizes the importance of critical sport fish habitat (spawning areas; nursery areas; feeder streams and rivers) to the long term maintenance of sport fish production. Habitat has been continually protected by the application of Guidelines For The Protection of Fish Habitat In Timber Management (OMNR 1985) as part of the daily activities. While few habitat problems have developed, a concerted effort is continually needed to ensure that expanding resource extraction activities do not detract from habitat quality. Continued protection of critical sport fish habitat is necessary to maintain production and to ensure the stability of sport fish stocks.

The public generally recognized the need for protecting fish habitat within the District. Inherent to achieving protection is the need for complete habitat information. The District data base still requires additional information to adequately describe critical habitat needs and their location.

STRATEGY

PROTECT, ENHANCE AND/OR REHABILITATE CRITICAL SPORT FISH AND LAKE TROUT HABITAT.

TACTICS

- CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INPUT TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND/OR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS USING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISH HABITAT IN TIMBER MANAGEMENT (OMNR 1985) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES. (ALL ZONES)
- CONTINUE TO ENFORCE ALL PERTINENT ACTS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO FISH HABITAT PROTECTION AND CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. (ALL ZONES)
- CONTINUE THE LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM BUT EXPAND DATA COLLECTION TO INCLUDE FISH POPULATION ASSESSMENT AND CRITICAL HABITAT IDENTIFICATION. (ALL ZONES)
- REHABILITATE AND/OR ENHANCE SPORT FISH AND LAKE TROUT HABITAT, IN SITUATIONS WHERE THERE IS A CONFIRMED NEED, THROUGH THE INVOLVEMENT OF LOCAL ANGLER GROUPS AND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY OR INITIATING MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES PROGRAMS WHEN NECESSARY. (ALL ZONES)

Protection of sport fish and lake trout habitat will continue through input to the timber management planning process and other development proposals using the Provincial Guidelines For The Protection Of Fish Habitat In Timber Management (OMNR 1985). Additional data will continue to be collected through the lake survey program. The District also intends to upgrade the existing lake survey program to include a better quantification of sport fish and lake trout habitat characteristics.

The District intends to rehabilitate or enhance sport fish habitat in specific situations where the need is justified. Although public comment did not indicate the requirement for rehabilitation in any specific location these tactics provide for such management actions should they be required in the future. The District will encourage more public involvement in fisheries management through the Community Fisheries Involvement Program (CFIP) for achieving rehabilitation/enhancement objectives.

3.4.3.2 MUSKELLUNGE

PROBLEM/ISSUE 2

CRITICAL MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT MUST BE PROTECTED FROM ALTERATION OR DETERIORATION DUE TO SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

STRATEGY

PROTECT MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT.

TACTICS

- IDENTIFY CRITICAL MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT, THROUGH THE AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORY PROGRAM AND OTHER INSPECTION PROGRAMS.
- PERMIT MUSKELLUNGE THE SAME LEVEL OF HABITAT PROTECTION AS PROVIDED LAKE TROUT.
- PROMOTE AND SUPPORT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH HAVING EMPHASIS ON MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT NEEDS AND PROTECTION.

Muskellunge, like lake trout, are particularly sensitive to habitat disturbance. Muskellunge habitat will be afforded the same protection as lake trout through the application of guidelines for fish habitat management. The Aquatic habitat Inventory Program currently in place, will be the primary mechanism for developing a habitat related data base.

Conducting scientific research directed at the identification of muskellunge habitat characteristics is

beyond the scope of District management efforts. However, it is suggested that the District should support and promote research having an emphasis on muskellunge habitat.

3.4.4 FISHERIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

3.4.4.1 SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT

PROBLEM/ISSUE 1

THERE IS A NEED TO INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF MANAGEMENT EFFORTS AND MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TACTICS THAT ARE IMPLEMENTED.

A main focus of this plan is to maintain or enhance fishing quality by encouraging anglers to limit their catch and consider, to a greater degree, the recreational aspects of fishing. This philosophy is particularly important for protecting larger mature walleye, lake trout and northern pike. Obviously this implies the need for more catch-and-release fishing. Widespread acceptance and application of tactics to achieve this philosophy will not occur overnight and will require the support of all user groups. To stimulate support requires a greater dissemination of information regarding fisheries management principles and techniques.

In addition, the District needs to determine, through monitoring, if the management tactics are producing an increase in angler satisfaction while reducing harvests.

STRATEGY

INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS.

TACTICS

- PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND ADVICE (EXTENSION SERVICES) TO USERS WHO WISH TO DEVELOP SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR ENSURING FISHING QUALITY (I.E. PROMOTING TROPHY FISHERIES AND MORE CATCH-AND-RELEASE).
- PROVIDE THE GENERAL PUBLIC WITH MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF THE FISHERIES RESOURCES THEY USE THROUGH SEMINARS, BROCHURES AND WORKSHOPS.
- INCREASE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS.
- PROMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DIRECT MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES THROUGH GOVERNMENT SPONSORED PROGRAMS (CFIP) AND VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES.
- DEVELOP COOPERATIVE EDUCATION COURSES WHICH EMPHASIZE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES.
- IMPLEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FOR PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE TECHNIQUES FOR LAKE TROUT, WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE (ALL ZONES).
- PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF THE VALUE OF FISH HABITAT AND THE NEED TO PROTECT FISH HABITAT THROUGH THE USE OF HABITAT GUIDELINES.

STRATEGY

DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT TACTICS.

TACTICS

- ASSESS THE APPROPRIATENESS ACROSS THE DISTRICT OF THE MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS FOR WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE TO SEE IF IT IS PRODUCING A DECREASE IN THE HARVEST OF LARGE FISH (ZONE 36, 37, 38).
- ASSESS FISHERIES ON LAKES IN ZONES 37 AND 38 TO DETERMINE THE APPROXIMATE SLOT-SIZE AND TO CONDUCT FOLLOW UP STUDIES TO DETERMINE IF THE ABUNDANCE AND SIZE OF FISH IS INCREASING (ZONE 37, 38).
- CONTINUE THE LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM BUT EXPAND DATA COLLECTION TO INCLUDE FISH POPULATION ASSESSMENT AND CRITICAL HABITAT INFORMATION (TO ASSIST IN HABITAT PROTECTION EFFORTS AND IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF NEW FISHING OPPORTUNITIES) (ALL ZONES).
- ASSESS THE LAKE TROUT FISHERIES TO DETERMINE IF FISHING SUCCESS AND CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING IS INCREASING (ZONES 37, 38).
- CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE DISTRICT DATA BASE IN REGARDS TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL LAKE TROUT HABITAT (ALL ZONES).
- IDENTIFY WHERE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAKE TROUT FISHERIES CAN OCCUR (ALL ZONES).

3.4.4.2 LAKE TROUT

PROBLEM/ISSUE 2

SMELT HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO WATERBODIES WHICH SUPPORT LAKE TROUT POPULATIONS.

Recently it has been documented that smelt now exist in the Red Lake/Gullrock system. Scientific study has shown that this species can impact adversely on whitefish and herring populations. This in turn can affect lake trout populations as whitefish and herring are major prey for this species. Fisheries managers must find ways to control the spread of this species. Anglers have a role to play in controlling the introduction of smelt into other District waterbodies.

STRATEGY

CONTROL THE INTRODUCTION OF SMELT INTO OTHER DISTRICT WATERBODIES.

TACTICS

- INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF SMELT INTRODUCTIONS THROUGH BROCHURES, SEMINARS, FEATURE STORIES AND NEWS RELEASES.

Public information materials would also indicate the things that anglers can do to minimize the spread of smelt. Freshly killed smelt have the potential to colonize waterbodies if the entrails from male and female smelt are mixed together and then dumped into a lake or river. The eggs and sperm from smelt may remain viable for some time after the smelt have been killed.

Anglers who harvest smelt can ensure that fertilized eggs are not introduced into waterbodies by depositing the entrails in licenced waste disposal sites.

The Ministry will be investigating other methods to effectively control smelt.

3.4.4.3 MUSKELLUNGE

PROBLEM/ISSUE 3

LACK OF KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO THE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF MUSKELLUNGE.

A general lack of knowledge in the following areas have been identified;

i/ appropriateness of current minimum size restrictions;

ii/ appropriateness of current size limits for management of muskellunge in small lakes where fish do not obtain large size; and

iii/ the number of trophy fish that can be removed from a lake on an annual basis and still sustain a trophy fishery.

STRATEGY

IMPROVE THE DISTRICT DATA BASE IN THOSE AREAS INDICATED ABOVE.

TACTICS

- INVESTIGATE THE APPROPRIATENESS OF CURRENT SIZE LIMITS FOR MANAGING MUSKELLUNGE IN LAKES WHERE POPULATIONS EXHIBIT SLOW TO MODERATE GROWTH.
- IMPLEMENT CREEL SURVEYS TO DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF MUSKELLUNGE HARVEST.
- COOPERATE WITH ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS MUSKIES INC. IN THE PROMOTION OF PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE TECHNIQUES.

Muskellunge populations in the Red Lake District appear to exhibit the slowest growth of any muskellunge population in North America. Further investigation is required to confirm and quantify development and growth characteristics of District muskellunge populations. Such information would make a significant contribution to overall scientific knowledge related to muskellunge and confirm the suitability of current size restrictions for protecting muskellunge populations. As indicated previously, there are certain lakes in the Red Lake District, specifically Paul-Orr and Spires, whose muskellunge populations exhibit very slow growth and may not reach a large size. The District is concerned that the current minimum size limit of 86 cm may be inappropriate for muskellunge populations in these lakes as it may not permit any harvest. The District would like to examine the growth characteristics of muskellunge in Paul-Orr and Spires Lakes in relation to the current size restriction with possible recommendations for size limit changes. Any proposals for alteration in the minimum size limit would be examined at the five year management plan review.

Harvesting of muskellunge appears to focus on Red Lake, Confusion Lake, Pakwash Lake, Paul-Orr Lake, Flat Lake and Russett Lake according to public input. The actual level of harvest from these lakes is unknown at this time.

The success of a tag system for controlling muskellunge harvest is dependent on minimizing mortality associated with catch-and-release practices. The promotion of proper

catch-and-release techniques can only be achieved through programs aimed at disseminating such information and educating anglers on the importance of their continued use. The District suggests closer cooperation with such organizations as Muskies Inc. who are dedicated to conservation of muskellunge and who have well established educational programs.

3.4.4.4 COMMERCIAL FISHING (BAIT)

PROBLEM/ISSUE 4

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF BAITFISH PRODUCTION WOULD BE USEFUL TO THE BAITFISH INDUSTRY AND MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

The baitfish industry has expressed concern that timber harvesting or development on the shoreline of baitfish lakes could be detrimental to baitfish habitat and/or populations. However, a mechanism in the form of the Timber Management Planning Process, is in place to recognize and control habitat problems. While the public has not described cases where baitfish habitat or baitfish populations have been adversely affected, there is the belief that a conservative approach is warranted until the relationship between shoreline development and baitfish abundance can be determined. For effective protection of lakes harvested for baitfish, it is incumbent upon the baitfish industry to provide information concerning baitfish resource use and distribution.

Other information deficiencies focus on the identification of lakes with a potential for baitfish harvesting and the feasibility of techniques for controlling production from natural waterbodies.

STRATEGY

IMPROVE THE DISTRICT INFORMATION BASE.

TACTICS

- IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MNR AND THE BAITFISH INDUSTRY THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF COURSES, SEMINARS, PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON BAITFISH AND ATTENDANCE AT ASSOCIATION MEETINGS.
- SUPPORT/PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES REGARDING BAITFISH PRODUCTIVITY.
- UTILIZE THE LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL BAITFISH LAKES.

Conducting scientific research to identify environmental relationships on baitfish productivity is beyond the scope of District management efforts. However, the District will encourage university study of the environmental factors affecting baitfish production with emphasis on the influence of shoreline development or disturbance. The results of these investigations would be made available to the baitfish industry.

PROBLEM/ISSUE 5

LOSS OF BAITFISH THROUGH THE INTRODUCTION OF EXOTIC SPECIES.

Of particular concern to resident anglers and the tourist and baitfish industries is the possibility of compromising baitfish production in District lakes through exotic introductions. Resident anglers have indicated that there should be better policing related to the importation of foreign baits into the District, use of smelt as bait and the transportation of bait from one lake to another.

STRATEGY

MINIMIZE RISK OF EXOTIC SPECIES INTRODUCTIONS.

TACTICS

- INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS REGARDING THE IMPACT OF EXOTIC SPECIES INTRODUCTIONS.
- INCREASE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO PREVENT INTRODUCTIONS OF EXOTIC SPECIES.
- INCREASE THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION TO BAITFISHERMEN AND DEALERS RELATED TO BAITFISH HOLDING FACILITIES, BIOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT.

As a first step towards reducing the risk of exotic introductions greater emphasis can be placed on the enforcement of regulations related to the importation of bait. This particular tactic has the support of all user groups but is limited in it's effectiveness due to the large number of anglers that annually visit the District and their extensive distribution.

A much more effective tactic is to increase tourist industry and general public awareness of the detrimental impact exotic introductions can have on indigenous baitfish populations. Through this tactic the tourist industry and anglers in general will become self-policing to a great extent which will greatly reduce the risk of introductions. In terms of the mechanism by which increased public awareness could be achieved; seminars on the subject could be developed along with brochures, an in-District advertisement series, or regular visits to tourist establishments by fisheries management staff.

4.0 IMPLEMENTATION

The strategies indicated in this "final" Management Plan will be phased-in during successive five year operating periods to the year 2000. The specific fisheries management activities that will be carried out in a particular year will comprise the annual work plans for the District. All fisheries management activities contribute toward the attainment of fisheries management objectives and targets and are consistent with the strategies and tactics described herein.

The management tactics that are proposed for implementation during the first five year period are described in Tables 3 through 6. Certain tactics and the associated management activities can be undertaken with the present level of funding while other tactics, not currently in place, require additional funding.

Not all program areas can be addressed in the first five year period. Although all are of concern, there is a need to establish implementation priorities. The establishment of program priorities is a function of the urgency and complexity of the problem or issue to be solved. Implementation of management tactics is largely dependent upon the nature of the problem or issue, complexity of implementation, availability of funding and existing program workload. In many cases the management tactics and associated activities in the first five year implementation schedule will be a continuation of programs which are routinely undertaken. (e.g. review of resource extraction proposals, baitfish administration.) These activities already exist in the District funding base.

Other management tactics and activities represent new initiatives that will require additional funding and staff for implementation. How much the District can deliver in the course of five years will depend on the availability of additional funding. Since an Ontario resident angling licence has become a reality, additional funding will be available to take on new initiatives.

Of priority during the first five year implementation period is:

- the need to enhance fishing quality in Zone 38;
- the need to maintain fishing quality in all other portions of the District (Zones 32, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37);
- the assessment of the level of harvest and fishing pressure for all species in the more accessible management zones (Zones 37, 38);
- the need to improve the pre-planning data base for fisheries in key areas (Zone 35);
- increase resident fishing opportunities in the more accessible management zones (Zones 35, 37, 38);
- the development of tourism opportunities in northern management zones (Zone 35); and
- assessment of the effectiveness of management tactics (Zone 37).

Assessments provide the means by which target and objective achievement can be measured and the basis for plan evolution and amendment to meet changing District needs. It is apparent that a sound data base is required for achievement of this priority over the first five year and subsequent operating periods.

Once a final Plan is approved it will be reviewed at intervals or whenever revisions are necessary. The reviews will examine the basic objectives, targets, problems/issues, strategies and tactics to ensure that they adequately reflect the District situation. Significant modifications will follow the same approval process as the original Plan, including public review and approval by the District Manager and Regional Director. Approved changes will be reflected in Northwestern Strategic Land Use Plan and other affected resource management plans. Likewise, the Fisheries Management Plan may be revised to reflect major revisions in NWSLUP or other resource management plans.

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TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR STRATEGIES AND TACTICS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987-1991

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH				
STRATEGY: TO MAINTAIN FISHING QUALITY FOR WALLEYE AND PIKE	HIGH QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES EXIST IN NORTHERN ZONES			
POSSESSION OF ONLY ONE (1) WALLEYE GREATER THAN 50 CM (19.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN A DAILY LIMIT OF SIX (6) FISH		ALL	X	
POSSESSION OF ONLY ONE (1) NORTHERN PIKE GREATER THAN 70 CM (27.5 IN.) TOTAL LENGTH IN DAILY LIMIT OF SIX (6) FISH		ALL	X	
NO LIVE BAIT ABOVE THE 11TH BASELINE		ZONES. 32, 33, 34, 35	X	
MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES OR GROUPS OF LAKES AS LIMITED ENTRY FISHERIES		ZONE 37 KIRKNESS-ODIN LAKE AREA BLUFFY-WENASAGA RIVER AREA		X
STRATEGY: ENHANCE FISHING QUALITY	FISHING QUALITY FOR WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE HAS DECLINED			
MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES FOR TROPHY WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES		ZONE 38 BRUCE LAKE - PIKE PAKWASH LAKE - PIKE LONGLEGGED LAKE - WALLEYE		X
ESTABLISH SLOT-SIZE LIMITS FOR WALLEYE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES		ZONE 38, NUNGESSER, KEG, RED GULLROCK, TWO ISLAND, RANGER PAKWASH, LONGLEGGED, COLI		X
ESTABLISH FISH SANCTUARIES (APR 15-MAY 31) ON SPECIFIC WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE SPAWNING AREAS		ZONE 38 RED LAKE - UPPER CHUKUNI RIVER - PARKER CREEK - GOLDEN CREEK GULLROCK LAKE - RANGER CREEK PAKWASH LAKE - 2 LOCATIONS BRUCE LAKE - 1 LOCATION	X	
REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR NEW AND EXPANDED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT		ZONE 38	X	
LIMIT NUMBER OF BOAT CACHES, LIMIT NUMBER OF BOATS/CACHE OR MAINTAIN STATUS QUO		ZONE 38	X	
EXPAND CROWN LAND CAMPING RESTRICTIONS		ZONE 38	X	

TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR STRATEGIES AND TACTICS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987–1991 (continued)

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH				
EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT TO A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN AND INCREASE OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES		ZONE 38 NUNGESSER, KEG, RED, GULLROCK TWO ISLAND, RANGER, PAKWASH LONGLEGGED, COLI		X
STRATEGY: INCREASE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS	QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES ARE LIMITED FOR RESIDENTS			
EXPAND WALLEYE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH ADULT TRANSFERS INTO SELECTED LAKES THAT CAN SUPPORT SELF-SUSTAINING POPULATIONS		ZONE 38 ALFORD, CORALLEN 32-ISLAND, WHITEASS, PARA		X
UTILIZE ROADS DEVELOPED THROUGH THE TIMBER MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS		ZONE 37	X	
STRATEGY: DEVELOP NEW TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN MANAGEMENT ZONES	TO ESTABLISH ROAD ACCESSIBLE FISHING OPPORTUNITIES. SPORT FISH PRODUCTION OF WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE IN NORTHERN ZONES COULD PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES			
COLLECT FISHERIES DATA ON ALLOWABLE HARVEST AND EXISTING LEVEL OF USE		ZONES: 32, 34, 35		X
WORK WITH MTR AND THE TOURIST INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP A MECHANISM FOR ALLOCATING APPROPRIATE TOURISM FACILITIES		ZONES: 32, 34, 35	X	
REVIEW TOURISM EXPANSION PROPOSALS ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS		ZONES: 32, 34, 35	X	
LAKE TROUT				
STRATEGY: MAINTAIN FISHING QUALITY FOR LAKE TROUT	LAKE TROUT ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO OVERHARVEST			
REQUIRE NON-RESIDENTS WHO FISH FOR LAKE TROUT TO HAVE AN ONTARIO BASE OF OPERATION		ALL	X	
REDUCE THE DAILY POSSESSION LIMIT TO TWO (2) LAKE TROUT		ALL	X	
REVIEW THE CONTROL OF HARVEST AND USE OF SMELT		ALL	X	
MANAGE SPECIFIC LAKES FOR TROPHY LAKE TROUT FISHING		ZONES: 36, 37, 38	X	

TABLE 3: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR STRATEGIES AND TACTICS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY FISHING OPPORTUNITIES, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987–1991 (continued)

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIRE-MENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
LAKE TROUT				
REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY FOR LAKE TROUT ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS		ALL	X	
WORK WITH TOURIST OPERATIONS TO ENHANCE TROPHY FISHING		ALL	X	
EXPAND LAW ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS THROUGH INPUT TO A DISTRICT ENFORCEMENT PLAN AND INCREASE OFFICER PRESENCE ON HEAVILY USED LAKES		ZONES: 12, 37, 38 RED, TROUT, LONGLEGGED SYDNEY, WOMAN, CONFEDERATION		X
DEVELOP LAKE TROUT TAG SYSTEM FOR NON-RESIDENT ANGLERS		ALL		X
MUSKELLUNGE				
STRATEGY: MANAGE MUSKELLUNGE AS A TROPHY SPECIES				
ENSURE NON-RESIDENTS FISHING FOR MUSKELLUNGE ARE ACCOMMODATED AT TOURIST ESTABLISHMENTS		ALL	X	
IMPLEMENT TAG SYSTEM LIMITING ANGLERS TO TWO (2) FISH PER YEAR		ALL		X
COMMERCIAL FISH (FOOD)				
STRATEGY: CONVERT SPORTFISH QUOTAS TO TOURISM BASED OPPORTUNITIES WHERE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY ACCEPTABLE	SPORTFISH QUOTAS ARE UNDER-UTILIZED			
CONVERT QUOTAS FOR SPORT FISH TO RECREATIONAL FISHING OPPORTUNITIES		ALL	X	

TABLE 4: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR MANAGEMENT TACTICS RELATED TO REDUCTION OF CONFLICTS BETWEEN USERS, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987–1991

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIRE-MENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
COMMERCIAL FISHING (BAIT AND FOOD)				
STRATEGY: REDUCE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY AND RECREATIONAL ANGLERS	CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY AND RECREATIONAL ANGLERS			
REDUCE WALLEYE, NORTHERN PIKE AND LAKE TROUT QUOTAS THROUGH GOVERNMENT PURCHASE OR TRADING FOR WHITEFISH		ZONES: 35, 37, 38 KIRKNESS, TROUT, RODERICK, BARTON		X
IMPLEMENT SEASON RESTRICTIONS ON COMMERCIAL FISHING ACTIVITIES		ZONES: 37, 38	X	
INTENSIFY ENFORCEMENT OF LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO COMMERCIAL FISHING		ALL		X
STRATEGY: MINIMIZE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE TOURIST AND BAITFISH INDUSTRIES	CONFLICT RELATED TO BAIT FISH HARVEST FROM SPECIFIC WATERBODIES			
PROVIDE THE FORUM FOR EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS		ALL		X
MAINTAIN THE CURRENT POLICY OF LIMITING LAKE SPECIFIC LICENCES		ALL	X	
MAINTAIN THE CURRENT BLOCK LICENCING SYSTEM		ALL	X	

TABLE 5: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR MANAGEMENT TACTICS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987-1991

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIREMENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT				
STRATEGY: PROTECT, ENHANCE AND/OR REHABILITATE CRITICAL SPORTFISH AND LAKE TROUT HABITAT	FISHERIES HABITAT REQUIRES PROTECTION			
CONTINUE TO PROVIDE INPUT TO RESOURCE EXTRACTION AND/OR DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS USING THE GUIDELINES FOR THE PROTECTION OF FISH HABITAT IN TIMBER MANAGEMENT (OMNR 1985) AND OTHER APPROPRIATE GUIDELINES		ALL	X	
CONTINUE TO ENFORCE ALL PERTINENT ACTS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO FISH HABITAT PROTECTION AND CO-OPERATE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION		ALL	X	
CONTINUE THE LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM AND EXPAND DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS TO INCLUDE FISH POPULATION ASSESSMENT AND HABITAT IDENTIFICATION		ALL CLEVELAND, HEROD, HILTON KOWASTIGIMON, MACKAY, MIX NEMAKWIS, NORTH TROUT NL 53 43 - 92 53 NL 52 39 - 94 35 NL 52 37 - 94 29 NL 52 35 30 - 93 57 NL 52 31 - 94 13 (LITTLE ROUND) NL 52 32 - 94 06 NL 52 26 - 94 03 NL 52 22 30 - 94 37 NL 51 12 - 92 41 30 (PREMIER) NL 51 46 20 - 94 19 NL 51 07 30 - 94 07 30 WAPASIPI, BURNTWOOD, BUCKET BULLOCK, COCHRANE, CRITCHELL FRAME, GOOSE, HOBBES, HORNELL JOB, JOYCE, KAKEPETUM LITTLE SHABUMENI, MEANDARINE NAMIWAN, NOBEL NL 51 07 30 - 94 25 30 NL 51 09 30 - 94 40 30 OFFER, POIRIER, ROBERT ROSEBERRY, VARECLAY NL 50 52 30 - 94 38 00 NL 51 03 30 - 94 44 00 NL 51 06 30 - 94 45 30 NL 51 13 00 - 94 58 30 NL 50 46 30 - 94 47 30 NL 50 54 30 - 94 25 00	X	

TABLE 5: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR MANAGEMENT TACTICS RELATED TO MAINTENANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987-1991 (continued)

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIRE-MENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT				
REHABILITATE HABITAT IN SPECIFIC SITUATIONS		ZONES: 37, 38 PARKER, COIN, CELT, HAMMEL TURKEY CREEKS		X
MUSKELLUNGE				
STRATEGY: PROTECT MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT	MAINTENANCE OF HABITAT IS CRITICAL TO THE SURVIVAL OF MUSKELLUNGE			
IDENTIFY CRITICAL MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT				
PERMIT MUSKELLUNGE THE SAME LEVEL OF HABITAT PROTECTION AS LAKE TROUT				X
PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WHICH EMPHASIZES PROTECTION OF MUSKELLUNGE HABITAT			X	X

TABLE 6: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR MANAGEMENT TACTICS RELATED TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987-1991

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIRE-MENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT				
STRATEGY: INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT EFFORTS	IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH PUBLIC			
IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ASSESS HARVEST AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANGLING PRESSURE		ZONES: 37, 38 RED, TROUT, LONGLEGGED MEDICINE STONE, CONFEDERATION		X
PROVIDE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE TO USERS WHO WISH TO DEVELOP SPECIAL MANAGEMENT ACTIONS FOR ENSURING FISHING QUALITY		ALL	X	
PROVIDE THE PUBLIC WITH MORE INFORMATION REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES RESOURCES		ALL	X	
INCREASE PUBLIC CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT ACTIONS		ALL	X	
PROMOTE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE DIRECT MANAGEMENT OF FISHERIES THROUGH CFIP AND VOLUNTEER INITIATIVES		ALL	X	
DEVELOP COOPERATIVE EDUCATION COURSES WHICH EMPHASIZE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PRINCIPLES AND TECHNIQUES		ALL		X
IMPLEMENT EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FOR PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE TECHNIQUES FOR LAKE TROUT, WALLEYE AND NORTHERN PIKE		ALL		X
PROVIDE A FORUM FOR THE COMMUNICATION OF THE VALUE OF FISH HABITAT AND THE NEED TO PROTECT IT		ALL		X
STRATEGY: DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO MONITOR THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MANAGEMENT TACTICS	MEASURE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF MANAGEMENT TACTICS			
IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO ASSESS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SIZE LIMITS		ZONES: 36, 37, 38		X
IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM TO DETERMINE AN APPROPRIATE SLOT-SIZE		ZONES: 37, 38		X
DEVELOP EDUCATION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE FOR PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE TECHNIQUES		ALL		X
ASSESS THE LAKE TROUT FISHERIES TO DETERMINE IF FISHING SUCCESS AND CATCH-AND-RELEASE FISHING IS INCREASING		ZONES: 37, 38		X
CONTINUE TO EXPAND THE DISTRICT DATA BASE IN REGARDS TO THE IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL LAKE TROUT HABITAT		ALL	X	

TABLE 6: IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE FOR MANAGEMENT TACTICS RELATED TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS, RED LAKE DISTRICT, 1987-1991

STRATEGIES/TACTICS	PROBLEM/ISSUE ADDRESSED	ZONE(S)/ LOCATION	UTILIZE PRESENT LEVEL OF FUNDING	REQUIRE-MENT FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING
SPORTFISH/LAKE TROUT				
IDENTIFY WHERE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF LAKE TROUT FISHERIES CAN OCCUR		ALL		X
STRATEGY: CONTROL INTRODUCTIONS OF SMELT	SMELT COULD IMPACT ADVERSELY ON SPORTFISH AND LAKE TROUT POPULATIONS			
INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF IMPACT OF SMELT INTRODUCTIONS THROUGH BROCHURES AND SEMINARS		ALL		X
MUSKELLUNGE				
STRATEGY: IMPROVE THE DISTRICT DATA BASE	LACK OF KNOWLEDGE RELATED TO MUSKELLUNGE ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT			
ASSESS APPROPRIATENESS OF CURRENT SIZE LIMITS		ALL		X
IMPLEMENT CREEL SURVEYS TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF HARVEST		ALL		X
IMPLEMENT ANGLER EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PROPER CATCH-AND-RELEASE		ALL		X
COMMERCIAL FISH (BAIT)				
STRATEGY: IMPROVE THE DISTRICT INFORMATION BASE	CURRENT DATA BASE INSUFFICIENT TO ASSIST BAITFISH INDUSTRY AND MNR			
IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN MNR AND BAITFISH INDUSTRY		ALL	X	
SUPPORT AND PROMOTE SCIENTIFIC STUDIES		ALL		X
UTILIZE THE LAKE SURVEY PROGRAM TO IDENTIFY POTENTIAL BAITFISH LAKES		ZONES: 12, 29, 37, 38	X	
STRATEGY: MINIMIZE THE RISK OF EXOTIC INTRODUCTIONS	LOSS OF BAITFISH THROUGH EXOTIC INTRODUCTIONS			
INCREASE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE IMPACT OF INTRODUCTIONS		ALL		X
INCREASE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO PREVENT INTRODUCTIONS		ALL		X
INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE NEED TO UTILIZE PROPER HOLDING FACILITIES		ALL		X

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ALLOWABLE YIELD — the amount of fish flesh that can be removed from the water on a sustained basis.

ANGLER-DAY (OPPORTUNITY) — any amount of effort in a day constitutes an angler-day, for the purpose of converting angler hours to angler day, 6 hours will be used.

AQUATIC HABITAT INVENTORY — a basic study of a lake or river to determine species present, water chemistry, depth, water volume and other characteristics. The information obtained can be used to determine the potential and allowable yields of a lake.

BAITFISH — any fish that can be legally harvested by the commercial bait-fish industry.

BOAT CACHE — one or more boats legally deposited on Crown Land.

COLDWATER LAKES — those lakes having characteristics which would support salmonids (lake trout). Usually relatively deep, clearwater lakes.

COMMERCIAL FISH — any fish that are legally harvested by commercial fishing industry.

CREEL SURVEY — a survey of anglers to determine angler origin, species of fish caught, weights of fish and number of hours fished. Other information such as gear being used and information on the age of fish may be collected also.

CRITICAL FISH HABITAT — any fish habitat required for the maintenance of a healthy fish population or otherwise identified as essential to the achievement of the Ministry's fishery program objectives.

CROWN LAND RECREATION PROGRAM — an initiative implemented in 1984 within the Northwestern Administrative Region. The intent of this initiative was to encourage non-residents of Canada to use existing tourist facilities and thereby contribute to local and provincial economics through use of Ontario's fisheries resources and to generate revenue from non-resident use of Crown Land. In addition, this program involves the designation of areas closed to non-resident camping to redistribute high-use away from sensitive fisheries.

FISHING QUALITY — refers to the aspect of total angling experience including success, diversity of fish species available to catch, broad size range of fish including trophy specimens, and type of angling environment (remote wilderness experiences and experiences which are more accessible by road or boat).

GOAL — a general purpose to which the Ministry aspires.

HARVEST — fish taken and kept by resource users.

MANAGEMENT — the judicious use of means to achieve specific ends. Management may have various levels of intensity.

MINIMUM SIZE LIMITS — protect fish below a specified length ie. fish caught that are smaller than the minimum length must be released.

MAXIMUM SIZE LIMITS — protect fish above a specified length ie. fish caught that are larger than the maximum length must be released. Maximum size limits protect brood stock.

NON-RESIDENT — a person who is not a resident of Ontario or Canada.

OBJECTIVE — quantifiable and attainable end which the Ministry's efforts are intended to accomplish.

OUTPOST CAMP — a form of tourist operation consisting usually of housekeeping accommodations located primarily in remote areas with limited access.

OVERHARVESTING — harvest of fish by all users which exceeds the annual allowable yield.

POLICY — the decision concerning the objectives to be achieved and the means for achieving them. For resource management planning, we are mainly concerned with objectives, targets, strategies and tactics.

REHABILITATION — this term may be applied to both fish populations and fisheries habitat. In both instances, rehabilitation denotes efforts to enhance or restore a degraded or stressed situation to its original condition.

RESIDENT OF ONTARIO — an angler whose principal residence is in Ontario. A local resident would be one who can fish an area on a day use basis, ie. travel to the area, fish, and return to his home on the same day.

RESIDENT OF CANADA — an angler whose principal residence is in any Canadian Province.

RESOURCE EXTRACTION ACTIVITIES — timber harvest, mining exploration and development, shoreline development and other relevant activities.

SLOT-SIZE — protects fish within a specified length range. Fish caught that fall within the length range must be released. The slot protects breeding individuals.

SPORT FISH — any fish that are legally caught by anglers (musky, lake trout, walleye, etc.)

STRATEGY — broadly planned action or measures to achieve a desired end.

TACTIC — a method devised to achieve one or more strategies.

TOURISM — the business of attracting visitors and catering to their needs and expectations. Visitors are travellers who will return home after their visit and who may return to pay another visit.

TOURIST OPERATION — an establishment or facility which consists of any one or a combination of the following: cabin establishment, camping establishment, cottage establishment, hotel, motel, motor hotel, outpost establishment, resort, houseboat operation or is generally in the tourist business. Provincial Parks are also considered tourism establishments for handling non-resident guests wishing to fish for lake trout or muskellunge. (Tourist or tourism operator or outfitter have corresponding meanings).

TROPHY FISHERY — a fishery managed for trophy opportunities. An attempt to increase the possibility of catching a large fish. These fisheries will have regulations which exceed those in effect elsewhere.

APPENDIX 1

LAKES STRADDLING RED LAKE DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND DISTRICT/PROVINCE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT

LAKES	RED LAKE	KENORA	SIOUX LOOKOUT	MANITOBA
ALLISON			X	
ANDERSON	X			
ANITA				X
ARTERY	X			
ASSAPAN				X
BADROCK	X			
BEE	X			
BIRCH	X			
BRADBURN				X
CARROLL	X			
CASUSSIT	X			
CAVANAGH	X			
COOK	X			
CRAVEN				X
EAGLE		X		
FLET	X			
FORD	X			
FRANCES				X
GARNER				X
HAYWARD				X
HILTON	X			
HOBBS	X			
JUBILEE	X			
KAKINAWAO			X	
KANESS	X			
LAC SEUL			X	
LARONDE				X
LAWE				X
LATREILLE			X	
MACDOWELL	X			
MACGILLIVRAY	X			
MACKAY	X			
MARILA	X			
MEANDRINE	X			
MOAR	X			
OBUKOWIN		X		
ODD		X		
PACKEAN	X			
PASCALL				X
PERREAULT	X			
PHILIP	X			
PIERCE	X			
PONASK			X	
RETTER			X	
RICKABY		X		

APPENDIX 1

LAKES STRADDLING RED LAKE DISTRICT BOUNDARY AND DISTRICT/PROVINCE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANAGEMENT
(continued)

LAKES	RED LAKE	KENORA	SIOUX LOOKOUT	MANITOBA
RIGHT		X		
RORKE	X			
ROSEBURY	X			
ROWDY	X			
SANDY	X			
SOLITARY	X			
SPARROWHAWK				X
STULL	X			
SYDNEY	X			
TALON (GHOST)	X			
TINKER			X	
TURP	X			
UNEXPECTED	X			
WALKER	X			
WARRINGTON				X
HORNELL				X
WILCOX	X			

APPENDIX 2

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION EFFORTS RELATED TO FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN THE RED LAKE DISTRICT

Public consultation efforts followed a systematic approach. The first step in this approach was the development of a COMMUNICATIONS PLAN which was incorporated into the TERMS OF REFERENCE, RED LAKE DISTRICT FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN (1985a).

The objectives of the COMMUNICATION PLAN were twofold:

1. TO INFORM SPECIFIC INTEREST GROUPS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING IN THE RED LAKE DISTRICT.
2. TO INDICATE TO INTERESTED GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE DISTRICT HOW THEY MIGHT PARTICIPATE IN THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS.

The COMMUNICATIONS PLAN basically described the audiences to be contacted and the various communications initiatives to be implemented.

A mailing list was established and maintained throughout the planning process. The initial mailing list was compiled from lists of individuals, groups or organizations who had expressed an interest in fisheries management planning during the Strategic Land Use Planning process. The mailing list was updated as planning progressed.

PHASE 1 COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

INITIATIVE	MEDIA	DATES OF PRESENTATION
DISTRICT NEWS RELEASE This release explained the intent of fisheries management planning, and invited public involvement.	RED LAKE DISTRICT NEWS	JULY 1986
LETTERS OF INVITATION	MAIL Letters sent to all individuals/ groups on the mailing list inviting them to attend the open house.	OCTOBER 30, 1986
INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE SUMMARY DOCUMENT AND OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	RED LAKE DISTRICT NEWS	NOVEMBER 5, 1986
OPEN HOUSE - SUMMARY DOCUMENT AND OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	EAR FALLS RED LAKE	NOVEMBER 12, 1986 NOVEMBER 13, 1986

PHASE 1 COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES (continued)

INITIATIVE	MEDIA	DATES OF PRESENTATION
REMINDER FOR THE SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS	MAIL Letter sent to all persons in attendance at the open house or having a summary document.	DECEMBER 1986
NEWS RELEASE RE: TABLOID	EAR FALLS, RED LAKE	SEPTEMBER 1987
TABLOID WITH INVITATION TO OPEN HOUSE TO DISCUSS DRAFT PLAN	MAIL (1500 Distributed) Sent to all households in Cochenour, Balmertown, Red Lake, Ear Falls	SEPTEMBER 18, 1987
ADVERTISED AN INVITATION TO ATTEND OPEN HOUSE AND COMMENT ON DRAFT PLAN	DISTRICT NEWS	SEPTEMBER 23, 1987
OPEN HOUSE	RED LAKE EAR FALLS	SEPTEMBER 29, 1987 SEPTEMBER 30, 1987
DRAFT PLAN AND REMINDER FOR SUBMISSION OF COMMENTS	MAIL To open house attendees and mailing list	OCTOBER 27, 1987
REMINDER AND EXTENSION OF DEADLINE	DISTRICT NEWS	OCTOBER 21, 1987 OCTOBER 28, 1987 NOVEMBER 4, 1987

DETAILS ON OPEN HOUSES HELD DURING THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLANNING PROCESS

PURPOSE	DATE(S)/ LOCATIONS	ATTENDANCE	NO. OF DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED	NO. OF QUESTIONNAIRES DISTRIBUTED	TOTAL QUESTIONNAIRES RECEIVED
PRESENTATION OF SUMMARY OF BACK-GROUND INFORMATION AND	NOV. 12 EAR FALLS	54	325	400	139
INTRODUCTION TO OPTIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES	NOV. 13 RED LAKE	47			
PRESENTATION OF DRAFT F.M.P. AND	SEPT. 29/87 RED LAKE	76	382	382	52
RED LAKE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL COMMENTS	SEPT. 30/87 EAR FALLS	54			

DETAILED RESPONSES TO THE SUMMARY DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

	Number of Questionnaire Returns
Resident Anglers	83
Tourist Operators	41
Bait Fishermen	2
Others	12
Non-Resident Anglers	1
TOTAL	139

DETAILED RESPONSES TO THE DRAFT DOCUMENT QUESTIONNAIRES

	Number of Questionnaire Returns
Resident Anglers	26
Tourist Operators	26
TOTAL	52

APPENDIX 3

LAC SEUL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN: A SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Lac Seul Management Plan was approved in June 9 1984. Since that time the Ministry of Natural Resources has received a number of different types of proposals for development of Lac Seul. Some of these proposals dealt with activities that were not permitted in the original plan. Others related to matters which had not been clearly addressed in the management plan. It therefore became necessary for the Ministry of Natural Resources to clarify its position on these matters.

To accomplish this it was necessary to update the fisheries data base used to prepare the Lac Seul Management Plan. In April 1985, funding to conduct additional studies on Lac Seul was approved.

The results of the 1985 fisheries studies indicated that walleye on Lac Seul were being harvested at or just above their target levels in all management zones except Zone 2 (see attached map). Ministry of Natural Resources staff therefore felt it was not appropriate to allow any additional development on Lac Seul which would increase the stress on the sport fishery. Ministry staff also felt it was necessary to adopt additional management measures to maintain the high quality sport fishery on Lac Seul.

In the spring of 1986, the Ministry of Natural Resources presented the management measures they were proposing to the public. Based on feedback received from the public, modifications were made to these recommendations.

Relationship To The District Fisheries Management Plan

The review of the Lac Seul Management Plan had just been completed when work on the District Fisheries Management Plan began. One of the messages received from the Lac Seul review was to allow the effects of the new recommendations to be evaluated **before considering any additional management measures**. Therefore it was decide not to propose any new strategies or tactics for Lac Seul during the preparation of the District Fisheries Management Plan. Instead, the approved recommendations from the Lac Seul Management Plan review would be incorporated into the Sioux Lookout Fisheries Management Plan.

The following section contains the objectives and recommendations of the original Lac Seul Management Plan. It also contains the key findings of the 1985 fisheries studies and the recommendations approved in 1986. These recommendations will be the management tools that will be used to manage the fishery on Lac Seul during the first five year period of the District Fisheries Management Plan.

Overview Of The Plan

Plan Objectives

1. To recognize and protect the remote recreational character of the lake;
2. To maintain the existing high quality sport fishing on the lake;
3. To balance annual fish harvest with annual fish productivity;
4. To work within the framework of the Dryden District and draft West Patricia Land Use Guidelines.

Original Recommendations and Their Status

1. Develop trophy regulations for northern pike in Lac Seul;

   Since 1986, no person may possess more than one northern pike in excess of 70 cm (total length) from Lac Seul within their possession limit of 6 pike.

2. Establish a walleye sanctuary network for the lake;

   The Root River sanctuary (Adam Hay, Dec. 1 to June 21 inclusive) was put into regulation to protect pre-spawning walleye congregations. Another sanctuary was established at the mouth of the Wenasaga River (april 14 to May 31 inclusive) in the spring of 1986.

3. Negotiate the removal of walleye quotas from commercial fishing licences in Zones 2 and 6.

   In 1984, quotas for walleye were purchased by the Ministry of Natural Resources from commercial fisherman on Lac Seul. The only remaining quotas are for whitefish and herring.

4. Encourage the development of houseboat regulations;

   No additional commercial houseboats providing overnight accommodations for non-residents will be permitted on Lac Seul beyond those presently recognized (ie total 14). Commercial houseboats are prohibited from Zone 3, may travel through Zone 1 and 4 and may overnight in Zones 2, 5, 6 and 7. Private and commercial houseboats cannot be left unattended on Crown

land. Non-residents of Canada may not overnight on Crown land in private houseboats.

5. Develop a Crown land camping network to control non-resident camper on Lac Seul;

   In 1985 Lac Seul was designated a restricted camping zone. This meant that non-residents of Canada could not camp within half a kilometre of the shore of Lac Seul on Crown land. A number of commercial campsites were established to accommodate non-resident campers on the lake and transferred to the private sector to operate.

6. Control location and number of boat caches on Lac Seul through the enforcement of the Boat Caches Policy;

   Cached boats now require a boat cache sticker if they occupy Crown Land. Non-residents of Canada cannot cache boats on Crown Land. Through negotiations, all commercial boat caches were removed from Zone 3 (Vaughan Lake) before July 1, 1985.

7. Site specific development proposals will be reviewed on an individual basis. Any future disposition of Crown land must be in accordance with the remote recreational character of the lake;

   This was being carried out. A need to clarify this recommendation was identified.

8. Access road development in the vicinity of Lac Seul will continue to be restricted.

   This recommendation was being followed. However, a need to clarify the specific procedure being followed was identified.

Results of the 1985 Fisheries Studies

The most important results obtained from data collected during these studies the 1985 angler harvest estimates and the harvest target levels. Table 1 illustrates this information for walleye and northern pike and compares the current harvest situation with the information used to develop the Lac Seul Management Plan in 1984.

Harvest is the estimated weight of fish taken by anglers in a given year. The 1985 harvest information for Lac Seul has been calculated from creel survey information.

Harvest targets are the predicted maximum levels at which fish may be harvested from Lac Seul without adversely affecting the fish populations. The 1985 harvest targets have been revised on the basis of more accurate water chemistry data and index netting results from Zones 1 and 3.

In 1985, on a lakewide basis walleye were being harvested at, or just above a level which Lac Seul can sustain (see Table 1). Zone 3, 4, 6 and 7 showed an overharvest for walleye. Overharvesting of pike was occurring in Zone 3 only, but an overharvest situation for trophy pike (greater than 70 cm) was occurring lakewide.

Since walleye were being harvested at or just above their target levels, to maintain a high quality sport fishery it was decided that **SPORT FISHING PRESSURE ON LAC SEUL SHOULD NOT BE INCREASED AT THIS TIME.**

The weather during the summer of 1985 was atypical ie. unusually damp and rainy. There was some concern that the results obtained from the creel census may not have provided a true indication of the "normal" angling pressure on the lake. Therefore it was decided to conduct another creel census on Lac Seul in 1986. These results were not available during the review of the management plan because the creel census was going on at the time. The data was analyzed in the fall of 1986. As shown in Table 2, angling pressure for walleye in 1986 was greater than in 1985.

THIS REINFORCED THE NEED TO RESTRICT ANY ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAC SEUL WHICH WOULD INCREASE SPORT FISHING PRESSURE.

Recommendations

Fish Sanctuaries

- Implement, by means of a variation order, a winter fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake (Zone 3) extending from December 1 through to the opening of the walleye season (3rd Saturday in May), starting in December, 1986.
- Extend the fish sanctuary on Vaughan Lake from the third Saturday in May to June 5 inclusive. The extension is to be in place for the 1988 fishing season.

Slot Sizes

- Conduct an information program during the summer of 1987 that explains the concept behind slot size limits and their potential as a walleye management tool for Lac Seul.
- Monitor public reaction to the slot size information program. If there is a strong degree of public support, consider the implementation of slot sizes at a later date.

Commercial Houseboats

- Incorporate the Sioux Lookout District's procedure to control commercial houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan.
- Incorporate the Northwest Region's procedure concerning private houseboats into the Lac Seul Management Plan.

  (See the following section for a description of procedures).

Development Proposals on Crown Land

- Cottaging on Crown land on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.
- The number of commercial boat caches on Lac Seul will be maintained at existing levels.
- Additional private boat caches will be permitted in all areas of Lac Seul except Vaughan Lake (Zone 3).
- Commercial water lots will be made available on Lac Seul only to provide essential services to existing operations or new developments which do not increase sport fishing pressure.
- Restricted outpost camps, for the purposes of moose or bear hunting, will not be permitted on Crown land on Lac Seul.
- All requests for Crown land will be treated on an individual basis. These request will be processed using the procedures for evaluating Crown land development proposals on Lac Seul.

  (See the following section for a description of procedure).

Conversion of Existing Tourism Facilities

- MNR will not approve the conversion of cabin, lodge or outpost beds to houseboat operations, where the intent is to provide overnight accommodation to non-residents.

Access Points

- Existing access points, both official and unofficial, will be identified in the Lac Seul Plan. Where new unauthorized access to the lake created on Crown land, steps will be taken immediately to remove it.

Access Roads

- Incorporate the access road planning procedure for Lac Seul into the Lac Seul Management Plan.
- In situations where it becomes necessary to construct a road to Lac Seul across a water body leading to the lake or within 650 metres of the lake, the road proposal will be carefully reviewed and the public will have an opportunity to comment on the proposal.

  (See the following section for a description of procedure).

DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES

Procedure for Commercial Houseboats

Fourteen commercial houseboats are authorized to provide overnight accommodation to non-residents on Lac Seul.

No additional authority will be granted to provide overnight accommodation in houseboats to non-residents on Lac Seul.

Houseboats will be authorized by Land Use Permit. The permit will authorize:

- which zones houseboats may overnight in,
- which zones houseboats may travel through,
- which zones prohibit houseboats.

Procedures for Private Houseboats

When occupied by residents of Canada, private houseboats will be allowed to occupy Crown land sites on Lac Seul for up to 21 days.

When not in use (ie. unoccupied), resident houseboats must be stored at "private sites". Private sites include private and commercial Land Use Permit sites, private land and commercial water lots.

Non-residents of Canada may use resident houseboats on a day use basis only.

Procedure for Evaluating Crown Land Development Proposals on Lac Seul –

When a request for Crown land is received, the District Manager in the District where the land being applied for is situated will:

a) meet with a representative from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation and the applicant to outline the Ministry of Natural Resources concerns regarding development which will impact on the sport fishery;

b) explore alternatives with the MTR representative and applicant:
   - availability of private land
   - Crown land without water frontage
   - redesign of existing layout;

c) verify that the intended use of Crown land will not impact the sport fishery, then forward the proposal to the Sioux Lookout District Manager for monitoring compliance with the Lac Seul Management Plan;

d) initiate a contractual agreement with the applicant to the effect that the applicant will not develop facilities that create an increase in sports fishing pressure;

e) determine the necessity of submitting architectural or engineer stamp approved site plans and construction working drawings;

f) prepare the Crown Lease or Land Use Permit with condition of contract and completion of stamped approval plans (if required) forming part of either document.

Access Road Procedure — Lac Seul

1. All roads to be developed in any season must be accurately mapped in the annual work schedule.
2. Any road to be constructed within 650 metres of Lac Seul must be of a LOW or WINTER quality.
3. Every road must pass through a "NATURAL TRAP" where, in the opinion of the Ministry District, access will be prevented upon cessation of timber harvesting operations.
4. More than one "TRAP" may be required and/or the removal of a major crossing BEYOND the 650 metre limit.
5. To validate road locations, any or all of the proposed roads may be field checked prior to construction in the presence of company personnel and prior to District Manager's approval.

TABLE 2

HARVEST AND HARVEST TARGETS FOR LAC SEUL WALLEYE AND PIKE
(KILOGRAMS)

WALLEYE

ZONE	LAC SEUL PLAN (1979) HARVEST TARGET*	LAC SEUL PLAN (1979) HARVEST	1985 HARVEST TARGET*	1985 HARVEST	1986 HARVEST
1	29,454	18,457	21,439	20,752	26,712
2	29,708	19,224	33,977	12,414	10,585
3	3,753	14,213	12,156	26,807	31,214
4	15,156	21,068	17,134	19,730	26,850
5	5,818	5,733	6,500	6,585	9,693
6	11,833	17,754	13,707	31,370	27,906
7	14,280	5,366	15,586	24,413	27,070
TOTAL	**110,002**	**101,815**	**120,499**	**142,071**	**160,030**

NORTHERN PIKE

ZONE	LAC SEUL PLAN (1979) HARVEST TARGET*	LAC SEUL PLAN (1979) HARVEST	1985 HARVEST TARGET*	1985 HARVEST	1986 HARVEST
1	17,108	52,219	29,177	26,939	21,637
2	17,139	9,534	30,057	6,627	8,669
3	2,165	5,147	3,585	6,944	6,332
4	8,744	18,298	15,157	10,955	12,625
5	3,357	3,496	5,750	5,230	1,549
6	6,827	5,096	12,125	9,595	6,514
7	8,238	1,281	13,788	11,452	13,524
TOTAL	**63,578**	**95,071**	**109,639**	**77,742**	**70,850**

* HARVEST TARGETS ARE THE MAXIMUM LEVELS AT WHICH MNR PREDICTS FISH MAY BE HARVESTED FROM A LAKE WITHOUT ADVERSELY AFFECTING FISH POPULATIONS.

Note: In 1985 walleye were overharvested in Zones 3, 4, 6 and 7.

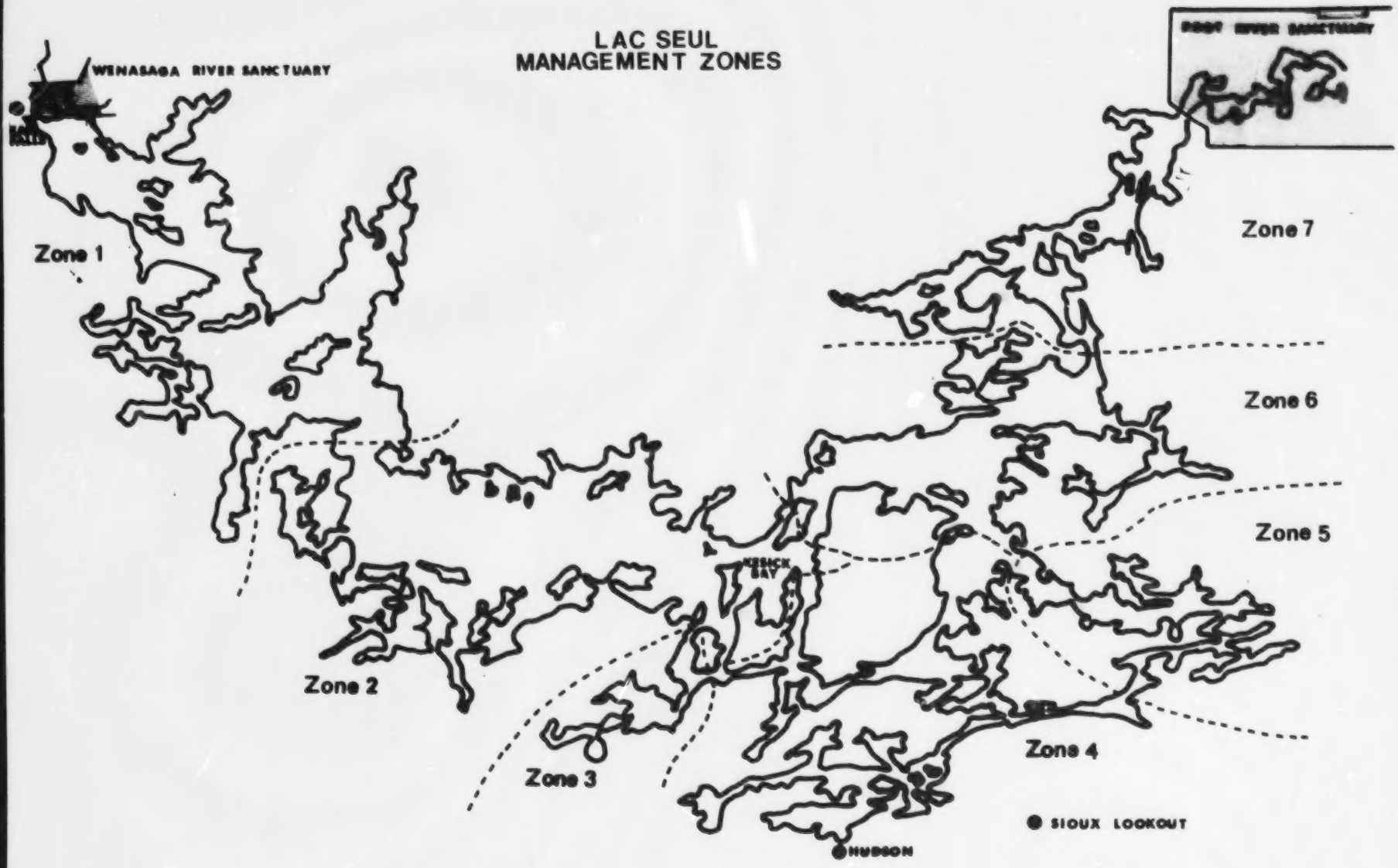
Pike were overharvested in Zone 3.

In 1986 walleye were overharvested in Zones 1, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

There was no overharavest of pike in any zone.

MAP 1

LAC SEUL
MANAGEMENT ZONES



APPENDIX 4

CHANGES TO THE NORTHWESTERN STRATEGIC LAND USE PLAN (NWSLUP) TARGETS

	NWSLUP	REVISED NWSLUP TARGETS
1. **Sport Fish**		
Harvest (kg)	930,000	726,750 Permitted Use
Angler Days	465,000	289,250 Recreational Opportunities
2. **Lake Trout**		
Harvest (kg)	N/A	30,550 Permitted Use
Angler Days	N/A	13,850 Recreational Opportunities
3. **Muskellunge**	N/A	N/A
4. **Commercial Fish**		
Bait	N/A	121,000 Doz.
Food		
South Berens	N/A	0 (top predators)
North Berens	N/A	N/A
Total	554,000	N/A

*N/A — Not Addressed

1. Reflection of projected demand
2. Resource maintenance
3. Angling quality maintenance

MAPS
NOT
FILMED

CARTES
OMISES